

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1425024-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 42

Page 76 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 77 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 78 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 102 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 103 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 104 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 165 ~ Misc - ILLEGIBLE;  
Page 166 ~ Misc - ILLEGIBLE;  
Page 167 ~ Misc - ILLEGIBLE;  
Page 281 ~ b6; b7C;  
Page 294 ~ b6; b7C;  
Page 298 ~ b6; b7C;  
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TEL LOS ANGELES 3-22-57 1.05 AM FL TELETYPE

DIRECTOR.

FROM. UNKNOWN SUBJECTS. MRS. DAVID SELZNICK VICTIM EXTORTION. VICTIM  
RECEIVED LETTER TODAY POSTMARKED LOS ANGELES. LETTER DIRECTED TO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HERE WHICH IS NOT ADDRESS OF VCTIM BUT  
IS ADDRESS OF [REDACTED] WHO IS NOT RELATED TO VICTIM WHO IS WIFE OF b6  
DAVID O. SELZNICK MOTION PICTURE PRODUCER. LETTER DEMANDED TWENTY T b7C

THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BE DELIVERED TO A. M. FOOTE, MD., VAL DE MAR HOTEL,

SIX NAUGHT SIX SOUTH HOPE STREET HERE. VICTIM INSTRUCTED TO PHONE DR.  
FOOTE BEFORE DELIVERING MONEY, NO SPECIFIC TIME MENTIONED FOR DELIVERY.

LETTER THREATENED IF MONEY NOT PAID HARM WILL COME TO VICTIM ALSO HER  
SON MYRON WHO WOULD BE HOPELESSLY BLINDED AND CRIPPLED FOR LIFE AND

CLAIMS IN ADDITION BROTHER IN LAW, FATHER AND HUSBAND WOULD BE INJURED  
BEYOND CRUELEST IMAGINATION. LETTER ALSO STATES FOOTE WILL DESTROY ANY

POLICE OFFICIALS WHO COME FOR HIM. ALSO THAT HE INTENDS USING MONEY FOR  
MAKING A PICTURE IN WHICH HE WOULD PLAY THE LEADING ROLE AS JESUS

CHRIST, WITH ANNA MAY WONG, AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON AND R. HARRY MCCOY IN  
SUPPORTING ROLES, THE LATTER AS JOHN THE BAPTIST, ALSO THAT HE HAS THE

INSTRUMENTS WITHIN EASY REACH WITH WHICH TO DESTROY EVERYBODY CONNECTED  
WITH VICTIM IN A MANNER WORSE THAN DEATH IF SHE FAILS HIM. ANNA MAY

WONG ALSO RECEIVED SIMILAR LETTER TODAY AND UPON RECEIPT OF IT CONTACTED  
BUREAU FITTS DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO ASSIGNED HIS INVESTIGATORS TO CASE AND

THEY HAVE TAKEN FOOTE INTO CUSTODY, HOLDING HIM SECRETLY. FOOTE IS AN  
OLD MAN LIVING ON A SIXTY DOLLAR A MONTH PENSION AND HE CLAIMS TO HAVE

RECEIVED LETTER TODAY INDICATING HE WOULD RECEIVE A PACKAGE WHICH HE  
WAS TO HOLD UNTIL CONTACTED. HE CLAIMS TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS MATTER

NOR IDENTITY OF WRITER ACCORDING TO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS INVESTIGATORS  
WHO REPORT HIS HANDWRITING NOT SIMILAR WITH WRITING IN LETTERS TO VICTIM

OR TO ANNA MAY WONG. WILL OBTAIN FINGERPRINTS OF FOOTE TOMORROW AND  
FORWARD TO BUREAU WITH ORIGINAL EXTORTION LETTER RECEIVED BY VICTIM

AND WILL CONDUCT FURTHER APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION  
RECORDED & INDEXED 9-2639-1





EXCERPT FROM THE DETROIT TIMES,  
April 3, 1937

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington

b6  
b7C

**Anna May Wong Gets  
Another Extort Note**  
HOLLYWOOD, April 3.—(INS)—Federal and state authorities today studied a new extortion letter addressed to Anna May Wong, Chinese screen actress, who was threatened with torture, recently unless she paid \$25,000. Pin punctures on a piece of wrapping paper spelled the words, "You are not yet safe. What is money compared with your life?" It was signed "She."

9-2639-A

THE ABERDEEN EVENING NEWS, ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA, MARCH 25, 1937

## Mad Threats Are Made To Movie Folk

### Selznick, Wong Families Get Extortion Notes

HOLLYWOOD—(AP)—Maniacal extortion threats against the family of David O. Selznick, film producer and Anna May Wong, Chinese actress, were disclosed by district attorney's investigators.

A note received by Miss Wong threatened to disfigure her for life and cripple her father unless she advanced \$20,000 for financing a motion picture, Captain Clyde Plummer said.

Another letter, intended for Mrs. David O. Selznick, asked for \$20,000 in unmarked bills on pain of bodily harm to her young son and to her father, who was not mentioned by name. He is Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios.

Believed to have been selected as a third victim of the extortion plot, Plummer said, was Dr. E. J. Foote, chiropractor and Spanish-American war veteran.

Dr. Foote, who turned over to Plummer a threatening note which he said he also had received, was held as a material witness. The message commanded him to receive the money as intermediary and hold it for further instructions if he wished to survive.

Plummer said the projected movie mentioned by the extortionist apparently was to be on a Biblical subject and suggested Evangelist Almesa Sample McPherson for a role.

This inclusion of Mrs. McPherson's name led investigators to theorize the writer was the same person who recently mailed threatening notes to her at Angelus Temple, resulting in a police guard at her summons.

Mrs. Selznick's letter was addressed to the home of Joseph Selznick, a distant relative of her husband, who opened it at the request of the producer's secretary and read it over the telephone.

Among the instructions for contacting the writer, Selznick said, was the warning: "If you attempt a trap or call police, I have the most cruel means beyond your imagination of disposing of anyone sent to catch me."

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....

b6  
b7C

4-2639-11

THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, MARCH 26, 1937

## EXTORTIONIST CLUES TRACED

Los Angeles, March 25.—(P)—A handwriting test of a Hollywood psychiatrist was arranged Thursday in the search for a fantastic extortionist who threatened to mutilate Actress Anna May Wong and the two sons of Film Producer David O. Selznick.

The psychiatrist, detectives said, agreed to submit samples of his penmanship to aid the "progress of elimination" in the two-day probe.

Federal agents also were investigating the handwriting of several other persons it was learned.

The homes of both Selznick and Miss Wong, who admitted "I'm having the jitters," were kept under guard following receipt of letters Tuesday threatening bodily harm

unless \$20,000 was paid for film-  
ing a Biblical scenario.

Another note, mailed to Dr. A. M. Foote, retired Los Angeles chiropractor, notified him he had been selected to act as intermediary and handle "a sum of ransom money" because a studio scout "has picked you out to play the part of Jesus." Foote.

It was signed "The Gang." The other letters purported to carry Dr. Foote's own signature.

Captain Clyde Plummer, of the district attorney's office said he was convinced "the letters were written by some fanatic with the evident intent of embarrassing Dr. Foote."

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan   | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson   | ..... |
| Mr. Neaseham | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg    | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey   | ..... |
| Mr. Dewey    | ..... |
| Mr. Egan     | ..... |
| Mr. Foxworth | ..... |
| Mr. Glavin   | ..... |
| Mr. Hendon   | ..... |
| Mr. Joseph   | ..... |

b6  
b7C

9-2637-4



Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Carson ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Gurnea ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Mohr ✓  
Mr. Pennington ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Nease ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓

# Examine doctor in threat case

Some "big names" were brought into Hollywood... may poison pen... was trapped by a psycho... story writer... for the nation... role of Christ... play he... threats of... in an offer... Reynolds' pay... to submit to... fingerprint tests... of Broadway... to appear for... is what... because he...

(Continued from Page 1)  
some of the persons involved. Members of the family of David O. Selznick, film producer, who received one of the threatening notes from "A. M. Foote, M.D.," will be similarly examined. Anna May Wong, Los Angeles-born oriental actress, who received another note, will also be questioned. Dr. A. M. Foote, who resides at the hotel where the \$20,000 demanded was to be delivered, and who himself received a letter signed "the gang," designating him as intermediary, like other members of the "cast" in the mystery, was under guard today. Capt. Clyde I. Plummer, district attorney's investigator, said he was convinced the notes are not in Dr. Foote's writing. District Attorney Burton Fitts, with Hollywood luminaries involved in the case, decided to take personal charge of the investigation. So thoroughly was the county in charge that John H. Hanson, chief of the Los Angeles bureau of investigation, department of justice, said "everybody else" had the case in hand and there was nothing for him to do. The district attorney's investigators said they had men staked out in Hollywood watching for a known drug addict who used to be a physician and who may have had a grudge against Dr. Foote. The notes threatened Selznick's two children and his father-in-law, Film Mogul Louis B. Mayer, if he failed to pay \$20,000, and also threatened disfigurement to Miss Wong and her father if she failed to comply. The writer said he "looked like Christ" and had written a scenario for a motion picture in which he wanted to star, and in which Miss Wong, Myron Selznick, brother of the producer, Aimee Semple McPherson, evangelist, and a Dr. Frank McCoy would have parts. The investigators gave no credence to the writer's assertion in Miss Wong's note that it was he who recently shot and slightly wounded Fitts.

No such statement made by me to press. In answer to all press inquiries I have stated "no comment." LBY

LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS  
MAR 25 1937



## Film Notables Menaced



**GUARDED AFTER THREATS**—Anna May Wong, exotic Chinese film actress, who received a note demanding \$20,000.



**EXTORTION TRY VICTIM**—Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the film producer, also threatened by a maniac.

(Picture from International News Photograph Service.)

## MANIAC HUNTED IN HOLLYWOOD THREAT CASE

**Arrest Expected Momentarily;  
Heavy Guards Thrown About  
Homes of Menaced Pair**

**HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—(L.N.S.)**—Arrest of a homicidal maniac, sought as the writer of extortion letters sent to Anna May Wong, exotic Chinese film actress, and Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the film producer, is expected momentarily, authorities announced today.

The same man is believed to have sent a threatening letter to Evangelist Althea Semple McPherson several days ago, according to district attorney's investigators.

Both Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick received threat notes demanding \$20,000. Heavy police guards were thrown about their homes today.

At the same time police revealed they were holding Dr. E. J. Foote, chiropractor, as a material witness in the case.

### NOTES KEPT SECRET

Dr. Foote himself turned over similar extortion note in which was instructed to obtain the money from Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick and "hold it for the gang."

His name appeared below the notes received by the two women.

The fantastic note received by Miss Wong threatened to "disfigure you for life if you do not advance \$20,000 for the production of a film."

While police refused to reveal the full contents of the note, they said it rambled on about a Biblical picture, in which Evangelist Althea Semple McPherson would have a role, and added that "Dr. Foote looks like Jesus."

After taking preliminary steps toward an investigation, police notified department of justice agents about the plot.

SEATTLE POST INTELLIGENCER

MARCH 25, 1937

9-2639

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo

## EXTORTIONER HUNT ON IN HOLLYWOOD

Psychiatrist Submits to Hand-  
writing Test in Notes to  
Anna Wong, Selznicks

LOS ANGELES, March 25 (AP)—A handwriting test of a Hollywood psychiatrist was arranged today in the search for a fantastic extortion-ist who threatened to mutilate ac-ress Anna May Wong and the two sons of film producer David O. Selznick.

The psychiatrist, detectives said, agreed to submit samples of his penmanship to aid the process of elimination in the two-day probe. Federal agents also were investi-gating the handwriting of several other persons, it was learned.

The homes of both Selznick and Miss Wong, who admitted "I'm hav-ing the jitters," were kept under guard following receipt of letters Tuesday threatening bodily harm unless \$20,000 was paid for filming a Biblical scenario.

Another note, mailed to Dr. A. M.

Foot, retired Los Angeles char-actor, notified him he had been selected to act as intermediary and handle "a sum of ransom money" because a studio scout "has picked you out to play the part of Jesus." It was signed "The Gang." The other letters purported to carry Dr. Foot's own signature.

Captain Clyde Plummer, of the District Attorney's office said he was convinced "the letters were written by some fanatic with the evident intent of embarrassing La. Foot."

NEW YORK POST

Forwarded by New York Post

MAR 25 1937

9-2639-10

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Fox  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
b6  
b7C

## Guarded Against Maniac



Threatened by a series of letters demanding \$20,000, Anna May Wong, charming Chinese actress, was in seclusion in her Hollywood home. Police kept guard against "E. J. Foote, M. D."

## Miss Wong Threatened

HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—Dozens of uniformed police kept constant vigil at the homes of David O. Selznick, movie producer, and Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, to frustrate threats of a maniac extortionist.

In weird letters to Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick the man, who signed himself "E. J. Foote, M. D.," boasted that it was he who wounded District Attorney Byron Fitts recently as Fitts was driving home alone.

He threatened to mutilate Miss Wong's father and "blind and cripple" the Selznick children

unless Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick each furnished him with \$20,000 for a movie scenario.

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

Forwarded by New York Office

MAR 25 1937

7-2639-2



## FANATIC SOUGHT IN EXTORTION CASE

Hollywood Psychiatrist  
Agrees to Handwriting Test  
to Aid Probe

By the Associated Press.

LOS ANGELES, March 25.—A handwriting test of a Hollywood psychiatrist was arranged today in the search for a fanatic extortionist who threatened to mutilate Actress Anna May Wong and the two sons of Film Producer David O. Selznick.

The psychiatrist, detectives said, agreed to submit samples of his penmanship to aid the "process of elimination" in the two-day probe. Federal agents also were investigating the handwriting of several other persons, it was learned.

The homes of both Selznick and Miss Wong, who admitted "the having the jitters," were kept under guard following receipt of letters Tuesday threatening bodily harm unless \$20,000 was paid for filming a biblical scenario.

Another note, mailed to Dr. A. M. Foote, retired Los Angeles chiropractor, notified him he had been selected to act as intermediary and handle "a sum of ransom money" because a studio scout "has picked you out to play the part of Jesus." It was signed "the gang." The other letters purported to carry Dr. Foote's own signature.

Capt. Clyde Plummer of the district attorney's office said he was convinced "the letters were written by some fanatic with the evident intent of embarrassing Dr. Foote."

Selznick was reported inclined to dismiss the extortion notes as the work of a "nut," but Miss Wong said "I haven't slept a wink."

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Cowley  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols

b6  
b7C

THE EVENING STAR  
MARCH 25, 1937

police  
nick, n  
star, to  
to



## Tellis

Anna May  
Wong, Chinese  
film actress  
who received  
\$20,000 extor-  
tion note, with  
District Attor-  
ney Fitts in  
Los Angeles.

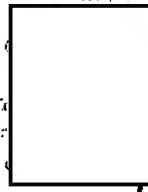
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Forwarded by New York Office

MAR 26 1937

9-2639-15

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Jones .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Miss Gandy .....



b6  
b7C



Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Jones .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Lester .....

## NEW WONG THREAT IS LAID TO 'CRANK'

A new threat note to Anna May Wong, exotic Chinese actress, had been added today to the others already being investigated by the district attorney's office.

The new message, addressed in printed pencilling, was delivered to the actress' Wilshire boulevard apartment.

Letters in the note on wrapping paper were carefully pricked out with a pin. The message read:

"You are not yet safe. What is money compared with your life?"  
Investigators believe it to be a "crank" note.

7-2639-10

TOLEDO BLADE 3/25/37

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Jones .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Mohr .....  
Mr. Pennington .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Mohr .....  
Mr. Pennington .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....

## QUIZ PSYCHIATRIST IN ANNA WONG PLOT

### Hollywood Expert Agrees to Handwriting Test.

LOS ANGELES, March 25 (AP)—  
A handwriting test of a Hollywood  
psychiatrist was arranged today in  
the search for a fantastic extor-  
tionist who threatened to mutilate  
the actress, Anna May Wong, and  
the two sons of David O. Selznick,  
film producer.

The psychiatrist, detectives said,  
agreed to submit samples of his  
penmanship.

Federal agents also were investi-  
gating the handwriting of several  
other persons, it was learned.

The home of both Selznick and  
Miss Wong were kept under guard  
following receipt of letters Tuesday  
threatening bodily harm unless  
\$20,000 was paid for filming a Bib-  
lical scenario.

b6  
b7C

9-2639-1



Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Cowley .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Jones .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....

## Doctor Guarded After Threats in Coast Plot

LOS ANGELES, March 27 (I.N.S.)—Guarded on orders of the district attorney as a result of telephoned threats, Dr. A. M. Foote swung back into the limelight today in the mysterious extortion plot against Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the film producer, Anna May Wong, screen star, and Evangelist Almee Semple McPherson.

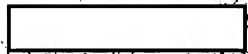
Dr. Foote, a chiropractor, was absolved by authorities several days ago of any connection with the plot. His name was signed by the extortionist to the threatening notes received by the celebrities.

9-2637-1

W7 43E 2101

MAR 27 1937

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b7C





TIMES-PICTAYUNE  
March 25, 1937.

## PRODUCER, FILM STAR GET WEIRD DEATH THREATS

'Movie Maniac' Blamed for  
Notes to Selznick, Anna  
May Wong

(By The Associated Press)

Hollywood, Cal., March 24.—Weird, confused messages, threatening death and mutilation, brought police guards today to the homes of Anna May Wong, willowy Chinese screen star, and David O. Selznick, film producer, and set federal agents to work.

The writer is a "movie maniac," said Captain Clyde Plummer, chief county investigator.

The letters showed a distorted mind, wildly fascinated by the motion picture industry. They told of a scenario, asked large sums of money, described a proposed cast, and confidently announced that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, largest film studio, would produce it.

They were bristling with reference to Biblical characters. They contradicted themselves. They mentioned Evangelist Almerie Sample McPherson, who has been under guard since she received a threatening note last Sunday.

Boasts of Ambush

And the writer boasted it was he who ambushed District Attorney Burton Phillips, two weeks ago, wounding him in the arm.

The shooting of Phillips, one letter said, was only a sample of the writer's self-esteemed capacities, which could, if necessary, "cause me to excel all human fiendishness in plans much beyond what I have hinted."

The writer added that "no police are a match for me, physically or mentally."

Neither Selznick nor Miss Wong was available for comment. They were believed to be under police protection at some unannounced places.

A curious factor in the case was that the letters to the actress and the producer were signed by Dr. A. M. Foote, and directed the recipients to send the money demanded—\$20,000—from each—to his office.

At the same time, a Los Angeles chiropractor, Dr. E. J. Foote, also received a letter, written, police experts said, by the same person on the same type of paper. The message to Dr. Foote told him he was to take the money from Miss Wong and Selznick, that he had been chosen to play the role of Jesus Christ in the movie, and that harm would come to him if he did not comply.

The signature on his note was "the gang."

Was Third Victim

Captain Plummer said he was convinced Dr. Foote had not written any of the letters, but was a third victim in the case. The police officer said he also believed the note sent last Sunday to Almerie Sample McPherson may have been written by the same man.

To Anna May Wong, the would-be extortionist wrote:

"Unless you come down to my room immediately with \$20,000, you will be disfigured and your father crippled and other close to you will be injured. First call my number and ask for me, Dr. Foote."

"You may think a doctor writing such a letter is crazy or under the influence of narcotics, but I have narcotics under full control and I

have the courage to sign my name. You do not need to lose the \$20,000. It is a mere guarantee of co-operation to the fullest extent on your part."

"I am going to induce Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to have us in the same pictures, when this is carried out, the money will be returned. Almerie Sample McPherson and Dr. McCoy will be in the picture."

## Oriental Film Star Frightened, She Says

(By The Associated Press)

Hollywood, March 24.—Anna May Wong, Oriental film star in hiding, after receiving a threatening letter, said tonight she is thoroughly frightened and guessed she was not a very good Chinese.

One of three persons who received strange notes, demanding \$20,000 on threat of death or disfigurement, Miss Wong was at an unannounced location with a bodyguard.

"If I were a true Chinese," she said, "this wouldn't bother me. I would sleep soundly in the knowledge that what the gods will, must be."

"But I haven't slept a wink since that letter came."

"It's like a nightmare. Every sound and every shadow seems to be fraught with menace. I have the sensation of being watched every minute of the time."

9-26-37-10



Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Jones .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Gandy .....

### Aged Doctor Given Guard in Movie Extortion Case

LOS ANGELES—A guard today was provided Dr. A. M. Foote, appointed intermediary by the extortionists who demanded \$20,000 from Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, and David O. Selznick producer. Dr. Foote, elderly chiropractor and innocent "third party," received threatening telephone calls, he told Dist. Atty. Fitts.

Mrs. Lydia Swenson, wife of a retired Duluth, Minn., lumberman, was arraigned yesterday charged with mailing Aimee Semple McPherson a threat note. Her bail was fixed at \$25,000 pending a hearing March 31. She claimed it was a "joke."

WASH. NEWS

MAY 27 1937

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Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Lester

# Anna May Wong Threatened by 'Fitts Gunman'

(By Associated Press)

Hollywood, March 24.—Weird, confused messages, threatening death and mutilation, brought police guards today to the homes of Anna May Wong, willowy Chinese screen star, and David O. Selznick, film producer, and set federal agents to work.

The writer is a "movie maniac," said Capt. Clyde Plummer, chief county investigator.

The letters showed a distorted mind, wildly fascinated by the motion picture industry. They told of a scenario, asked large sums of money, described a proposed cast, and confidently announced that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, largest film studio, would produce it.

Mentions Aimee.

They were bristling with reference to Biblical characters. They contradicted themselves. They mentioned Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson, who has been under guard since she received a threatening note last Sunday.

And the writer boasted it was he who ambushed District Attorney Byron Fitts, two weeks ago, wounding him in the arm.



Mrs. D. O. Selznick

The shooting of Fitts, one letter said, was only a sample of the writer's self-esteemed capacities, which could, if necessary, "cause me to excel all human fiendishness in plans much beyond what I have hinted."

Defies All Police.

The writer added that "no police are a match for me, physically or mentally."

Neither Selznick nor Miss Wong was available for comment. They were believed to be under police protection at some unannounced places.

A curious factor in the case was that the letters to the actress and the producer were signed by a Dr. A. M. Fitts, and directed the recipients to send the money demanded—\$20,000 from each—in his name.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS  
Forwarded by New York Office  
MAR 25 1937

9-2637-10



#### Chiropractor Gets Note.

At the same time, a Los Angeles chiropractor, Dr. E. J. Foote, also received a letter, written, police experts said, by the same person on the same type of paper. The message to Dr. Foote told him he was to take the money from Miss Wong and Selznick, that he had been chosen to play the role of Jesus Christ in the movie, and that harm would come to him if he did not comply.

The signature on his note was "The Gang."

Capt. Plummer said he was convinced Dr. Foote had not written any of the letters, but was a third victim in the case. The police officer said he also believed the note sent last Sunday to Aimee Semple McPherson may have been written by the same man.

#### What Note Said.

To Anna May Wong, the would-be extortionist wrote in part:

"Unless you come down to my room immediately with \$20,000, you will be disfigured and your father



Aimee  
McPherson

Dr. E. J.  
Foote

Extort note writer mentions them

crippled and others close to you will be injured. First call my number and ask for me, Dr. Foote.

"You do not need to lose the \$20,000. It is a mere guarantee of co-operation to the fullest extent on your part.

"I am going to induce Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to have us in the same pictures.

"I will play the part of Jesus, as I look just like Him.

"I can strike quick like I did to Baron Fitts when he took a warning from me as other warnings. Had I desired to kill him, I could have done so.

"Assure me by phone immediately and come to my room at once or I strike."

The letter to Selznick was substantially the same, except that it threatened injury to his two chil-

## Film Star Threatened



Anna May Wong, whom extortionist threatens to maim.

# PHONE THREATS AGAINST LIFE REPORTED

- Mr. Nathan ✓
- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Gandy

Dr. A. M. Foote, retired chiropractor, whose name was signed to the Selznick-Wong extortion letters, today was closely guarded by investigators from the district attorney's office because of telephone threats made against his life.

The chiropractor, who also received a letter from the writer of the weird notes sent to Anna May Wong, exotically beautiful Chinese screen actress, and Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the noted film producer, previously had been held in technical custody as a possible material witness in the case.

The letter to Dr. Foote demanded that he act as intermediary to receive the \$20,000 demanded from both Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick under threat of bodily harm to themselves and their families.

"Dr. Foote has been completely absolved from connection with the extortion letters," District Attorney Byron Fitts said today. "We believe he was the innocent victim of a maniac with delusions of movie grandeur who happened to know his name and address."

Dr. Foote had been kept in technical custody at a downtown hotel. He complained to investigators last night that as soon as he returned to his hotel on South Hope street, he started to receive a series of threatening telephone calls.

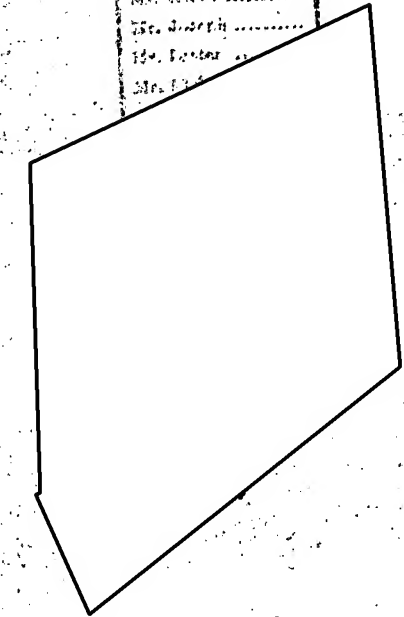
"We believe that Dr. Foote has incurred the enmity of the extortionist, and that his life is in danger," Fitts added. "We will keep a strict watch over the chiropractor, and will question every person who attempts to see him personally."

Meanwhile, search for a man said to have importuned film studios for several months to produce a screen play based upon the life of Jesus Christ—with himself in the title role—had failed.

The man was sought because the writer of the Selznick-Wong letters demanded \$20,000 from each of his intended victims to defray the costs of a Biblical film play.

Mrs. Lydia Swenson, 43, wife of a retired lumberman from Duluth, Minn., was arraigned in municipal court late yesterday for assertingly writing a letter to Aimee Semple McPherson, noted evangelist and pastor of Angelus Temple, demanding \$300. Her preliminary hearing on a charge of attempted extortion was set for next Wednesday, and bail was fixed at \$25,000.

"I did it as a joke and I don't understand why I am in jail," officials quoted Mrs. Swenson as complaining. The officials also said the woman has continued to writing the letters to Mrs. McPherson and Selznick, and has been contacted by the Selznick-Wong Foote letters.



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March 27, 1937

# Police Hunt Man Asking Christ Role

Police said Mrs Swenson admitted writing the letter, saying she needed \$200 for an automobile payment.

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9-2639-10

## Purple Ink Snares Woman in Aimee Threat

Glendale Writer Says  
She Needed \$200 to  
Make Car Payment

A letter of brilliant purple ink last night caught Mrs. Lydia Swenson, 43 years of age, of 1414 North Central avenue, Glendale, in a trap as the writer of a threatening note received yesterday by Aimee Semple McPherson, pastor of Angelus Temple.

At her home Detectives Underwood and Patton took the woman to police headquarters where she was booked on suspicion of extortion after she confessed to having written a note to a evangelist asking for \$200 to get out of peril from the black-

**PURPLE INK**  
Swenson was being held as the writer of one of the extortion letters received during the day. The note was signed with the name of Dr. A. M. Foote, whose name also was used to threaten Mrs. Swenson, who was addressed to Anna May Wong and Mrs. David O. McKay, wife of the film producer.

The note, admittedly written by Swenson, was signed "Aimee," but the Glendale police said it was given to her by a man who said he was a doctor.

Swenson was questioned by police and denied any knowledge of the letter. A search disclosed a bottle of purple ink, identical in shade to that used by the writer, in a box of envelopes, also in a bookcase. After checking the box with that of Mrs. Swenson, the police said she had written the latest extortion letter against Mrs. Mc-

## Aimee Threat Confessed

Purple Ink Traps  
Glendale Woman as  
Extortion Writer

Continued from First Page

Detective Lieutenant Underwood, investigating the woman, said the writer may either be a crank or someone trying to make Dr. Foote in difficulty with the authorities. He said several suspects are under surveillance and that an arrest may be made today.

Faced with these new developments, authorities yesterday doubled their efforts to learn the identity of the writer of the threatening extortion letters by questioning Dr. Cecil Reynolds, psychiatrist, and Miss Wong at various angles of the case.

**PRINTS TAKEN**  
Dr. Reynolds, an amateur playwright, voluntarily appeared at the office of Dist. Atty. Fitts, accompanied by his attorney, A. A. Hamilton. The psychiatrist readily volunteered to aid officers in the investigation of the extortion plot, but said he knew nothing of the matter other than what he had read in the newspapers.

The noted brain specialist and author of the recent play "The Mystery of Broadway Avenue," appeared at the office of Dist. Atty. Fitts in response to a call from investigators, who sought his aid in solving the mysterious case. He readily submitted to fingerprinting and gave samples of his handwriting, which were compared with the writing in the extortion letters.

Investigators said the taking of fingerprints and handwriting samples from Dr. Reynolds was merely for the purpose of technical investigation.

**FITTS EXPLAINS**  
At the conclusion of the interview, Fitts said: "We are absolutely convinced that Dr. Reynolds had no connection with the extortion letters and had no interest in the matter. His first knowledge of the affair was when he read the newspaper accounts of the threats against Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick. We are very grateful for Dr. Reynolds's visit to this office, and appreciative of his co-operation."

Dr. Reynolds, himself, was slightly mystified as to why his name had been brought into the case.

"I have never met Miss Wong or the Selznicks socially, nor have I ever treated them professionally," Dr. Reynolds said. "Neither do I know nor have I heard of Dr. A. M. Foote, whose name, I have been told, was attached to the extortion letters."

"I am glad to co-operate with the authorities in solving the



Detective Lieutenant Patton, left, and Detective Lieutenant Underwood shown questioning Mrs. Lydia Swenson, who was trapped as an extortion suspect by a bottle of purple ink found in her home. She admitted she had used the ink in writing a threat note to Aimee Semple McPherson deriding \$200 with which to buy new car.

case, but am extremely mystified as to why I was asked to visit the office of the District Attorney and as to why they desired specimens of my handwriting and my fingerprints."

Miss Wong, who was threatened with great bodily harm unless she met the \$20,000 demand of the extortionist, was closeted with Dist. Atty. Fitts for more than half an hour yesterday, during which time she was questioned at length as to any enemies she might have who would threaten her life.

She was unable to throw any light on the matter.

### DOCTOR GETS LETTER

Dr. A. M. Foote, whose name was signed to the letters, also reported receiving a letter in the same handwriting, in which he was informed he had been selected as intermediary for the extortionist. Dr. Foote was absolved from any connection with the plot.

Meanwhile, handwriting experts yesterday were comparing the handwriting in extortion letters with the writing in similar letters received recently by Aimee Semple McPherson, evangelist, and Dist. Atty. Fitts. The Fitts letter, received by the office last January 22, demanded \$30,000 under threat of death.

In the letter to Miss Wong, the extortionist boasted that he was responsible for the recent attack on the District Attorney,

## AMATEUR WRITER, ARRESTED AS EXTORTION SUSPECT, FREED

Coincidence and a weakness for writing letters to Los Angeles business men yesterday brought two hours of embarrassment to Gustave L. Le Roy, 58-year-old Spanish-American and World War veteran.

The man was arrested by District Attorney's investigators as he left the Los Angeles post office after he had called to claim mail left in his postoffice box as a suspect in the Anna May Wong extortion case.

Upon searching Le Roy's rooms at 700 West First street, the investigators found various newspaper clippings describing the attempted assassination of Dist. Atty. Fitts, the wounding of a woman by a mysterious sniper and a stenographic notebook with the name "Reynolds" written in longhand.

The "Reynolds" it developed was not Dr. Cecil Reynolds, but a war veteran and adjutant of Olympic post of the American Legion. The newspaper clippings were merely examples of news stories which Le Roy used in rewriting stories in a newspaper correspondence course.

And the letters which Le Roy had written to Los Angeles business men, which mentioned \$20,000 and attracted the attention

of officers, were merely written in an effort to practice news-writing.

Thus, after two hours of explaining with Le Roy furnishing ample credentials and explaining the letters, he was released.

A. Carstensen, handwriting expert, exonerated Le Roy after comparing his handwriting with that in the note sent to Miss Wong.



## DR. FOOTE GETS GUARD AFTER EXTORT CALLS

Unwilling Intermediary Was  
Named in Threat Letters  
to Miss Wong, Mrs. Selznick

New threats against the life of Dr. A. M. Foote, "gang-appointed" intermediary in a bizarre-extortion plot against Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, and Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the producer, led last night to posting of a heavy guard at his home.

Telephone threats against the chiropractor, extending over a twenty-four-hour period, were revealed as authorities pressed their investigation of a fantastic plot in which \$25,000 each had been demanded of the actress and Mrs. Selznick.

### Expert Checks Notes

That a disgruntled actor might have penned the weird notes referring to a biblical picture was among possibilities being checked by District Attorney Buron Fitts' investigation.

They were brought safely to the shore by the Coast Guard cutter "Itasca" Tuesday. The ship, which sank off Nova Scotia, was carrying a cargo of lumber and other goods. The ship was sighted by the cutter on Tuesday morning. The cutter was dispatched to the scene of the wreck. The ship was found in a state of total ruin. The crew was rescued. The cargo was salvaged. The ship was towed to the shore. The investigation is continuing.

**Demanded \$200:**

## Housewife Admits Extortion Note

**Wanted Money  
'for a Good  
Time'**

(Continued From Page One)

the writer of the notes might be a mysterious close observer of the doctor's affairs.

Still another channel of investigation was opened by the same note's reference to Japanese espionage activities in this country and mention of a "Mr. N." who assertedly had been in a position to spy upon the actress.

Pursuing this vague clue, District Attorney's officers were making a careful check of recent and former tenants of Miss Wong's apartment house, and of former subscribers on her telephone line.

Threats against Doctor Foote, however, were regarded as a major development in the bizarre case, after he had reported the series of mysterious telephone calls at his apartment at 609 South Hope street.

### Center of Probe

Doctor Foote had been for a time the center of the probe into the extortion threats as the notes received by Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick were signed with his name.

Subsequent investigation revealed, however, that he himself had received one of the threats and he was promptly absolved of all connection with the strange case.

District Attorney Buron Fitts said last night that he had ordered the guard for Doctor Foote in the belief that the blackmailers were trying to communicate with the chiropractor by phone in a possible attempt to frighten him into carrying through the role of intermediary outlined for him in the threat he received.

Doctor Foote said that the series of phone calls puzzled rather than frightened him. In each instance, he said, the caller would hang up as soon as he responded to the ring of his phone.

### Housewife Arraigned

In the melodramatic side issue that developed when Alvin Semple McPherson received two letters, one demanding \$200 upon threat of harm, Mrs. Lydia Swenson, 43-year-old Glendale housewife, was arraigned before Municipal Judge Clement D. Nye on a charge of sending the letter in an attempt to extort money and her preliminary hearing was set for March 31. Bond was fixed at \$25,000.

Mrs. Swenson, admitting that she wrote the Alvin letter, is not believed to be involved in the Wong and Selznick cases.

### Just As a Joke

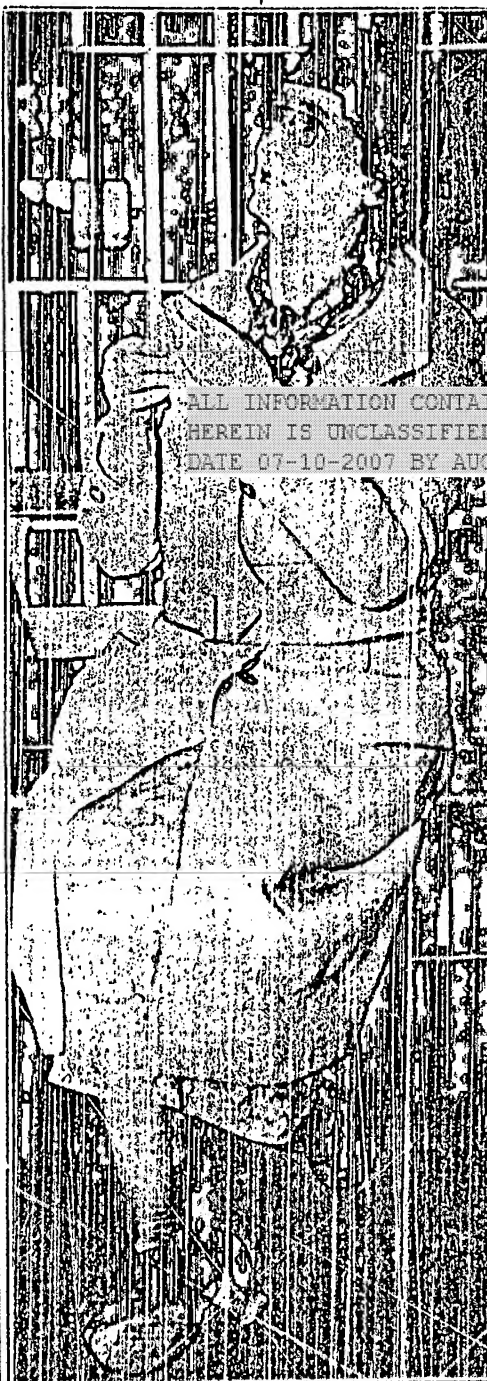
"I did it just as a joke," she said in Lincoln Heights jail yesterday, swinging suddenly to hysteria.

"The president of the world is responsible," she cried. "I thought I could bring a lot of things to public notice and run Mrs. McPherson out of town. It was just for fun. I don't see why I'm in jail."

Mrs. Swenson, who demanded \$200 "by return mail," said that she was "just going to spend it for a good time."

A large number of handwriting samples were turned over to Clark Sellers, handwriting expert, yesterday to be compared with the penmanship of the notes received by Miss Wong, Mrs. Selznick and Foote. Another study of the notes themselves was started by Detective Lieutenant Underwood, who said that it would take him several days to develop an idea on which he was working.

**Threatened  
Evangelist  
as a 'Joke'**



**MRS. LYDIA SWENSON**

**Glendale Housewife Says 'President of the World Is Responsible' for Affairs that Led Her to Write Threatening Missives to Evangelist**

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DATE 07-10-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc



# WRITER OF THREATS

# Divorce Case Up

Ruth Selwyn, former actress, was to appear late today before Judge Turney Fox seeking a divorce from Edgar Selwyn, film producer and writer, on the grounds of desertion and cruelty.

Mrs. Selwyn, formerly known on the stage as Ruth Wilcox, is now engaged in theatrical producing work and in order to fulfill com-

Mrs. Selwyn, formerly known on the stage as Ruth Wilcox, is now engaged in theatrical producing work and in order to fulfill con-

# TO SEE CITRUS HERB

To investigate at first hand the development of citrus production in Southern California, M. Amine



# NOTETELLS ATTACK ON DIST. ATTY.

A man who boasted that he was the gunman who shot District Attorney Byron Pitts was caught today as the writer of weird and almost maniacal extortion letters sent to Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the film producer, and Anna May Wong, exotic Chinese actress, demanding money and threatening bodily harm to themselves and their families.

While the Seznick and the Wong homes were closely guarded by police, authorities disclosed the full contents of the letter sent to Miss Wong and to Dr. A. M. Fook, whose name was signed to the Seznick and Wong letters, but who is believed by authorities to have no connection with the case.

ADVICE LETTER, TOO

The authorities said it is possible that the apparently demented writer of the three letters also is the author of the extortion letter received recently by Almer Scrimple McPherson, noted evangelist and pastor of Angelus Temple.

The letter to Miss Wong read:

THE ANNALS

"Unless you come down to my room immediately with \$20,000 you will be disfigured and your father crippled, and others close to you will be injured. First, call my number, TRInity 831, and ask for me, Dr. A. M. Foote. The address is Valdemar: Hotel, 606 South Hope street.

"You may think a doctor writing such a letter is crazy or under the influence of narcotics, but I have narcotics in full control and I have the courage to sign my name.

**MICRE GARANTIE**

"You do not need to lose the \$100,000. It is a mere guarantee of co-operation to the fullest extent on your part."

"I am going to induce Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to have us in the same picture, when this is carried

# INTERMEDIARY CHOICE FALLS ON DOCTOR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

out, the money will be returned. Almée Semple, McPherson and McQuinn will be in the picture.

"I will play the part of Jesus, as I look just like him. Be sure you call the right number, now, and don't try to call the police as you will only cause a terrible toll in lives."

"I do not intend to be a fugitive  
and if you folks are sensible you  
will be safe.

# FIENDISHNESS THREAT

I will not hold you responsible for what others do. I will destroy people connected with you as you are to blame. I know you have the money and I will immediately set to strike if you try any tricks. No police are a match for me physically or mentally, and while I have a kindly disposition in very kindness in my ultimate purpose will cause me to excel a human fondliness in plans much beyond what I have even hinted.

"I can easily get cars in the range of the millionaires' club as no one knows they have even



DR. A. M. FOOTE  
His Name Written on Extortion  
Letter by Maniac

LOS ANGELES HERALD-EXPOSER  
MAR 24 1937

Washington Times  
March 26, 1937

## EXTORTIONIST NOTE WRITER CONFESSES

HOLLYWOOD, March 26 (I.N.S.)—Arresting one woman and announcing they had cleaned up a new phase of the case, authorities today were still confronted with the bizarre extortion plot directed against Anna May Wong, Chinese screen star, and Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the film producer.

A middle-aged woman from Duluth, Minn., was arrested and charged with writing a new threat note to Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson.

At the same time police revealed that the evangelist received another note yesterday signed "A. M. Foote," the same signature that appeared on the notes received by Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick.

The suspect, who gave her name as Mrs. Lydia Swenson, 51, was arrested in her home. After lengthy questioning she confessed, stating:

"I needed \$200 for the down payment on a new car."

One of the notes received by the evangelist demanded that amount and conveyed a warning of "The Black Hand."

Officers admitted, however, that Mrs. Swenson could not have had any connection with the other note received by Mrs. McPherson, nor with those received by the film figures.

The second note received yesterday by Mrs. McPherson demanded that she meet the writer to discuss a biblical picture which he planned to produce.

In the two notes to Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong the writer demanded \$20,000 from each, to aid him in producing the picture.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. ...

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9-2639-18

THE WASHINGTON HERALD - April 4, 1937

## Actress Gets New Threat



International News Photo

**ANNA MAY WONG**  
*Torture Again Threatened*

**Second Note Seeks  
\$20,000 of Anna  
May Wong**

HOLLYWOOD, April 3  
(I.N.S.).—Federal and States  
authorities today studied a  
new extortion letter addressed  
to Anna May Wong, Chinese  
actress, threatened with tor-  
ture recently unless she paid  
\$20,000.

Pin punctures on a piece of  
wrapping paper spelled the words:

"You are not yet safe. What  
is money compared with your  
life?"

It was signed "She."

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9-2639-15



## EXTORTIONIST NOTE WRITER CONFESSES

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Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Gurnea .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....

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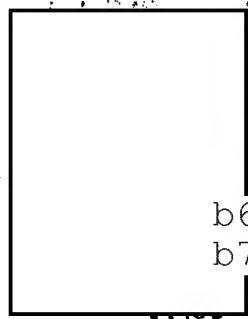
9-2637-1  
WASH. TIMES

MAR 26 1937

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Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
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Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy



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b7C

### Aged Doctor Given Guard in Movie Extortion Case

LOS ANGELES—A guard today was provided Dr. A. M. Foote, appointed intermediary by the extortionists who demanded \$20,000 from Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, and David O. Selznick, producer.

Dr. Foote, elderly chiropractor and innocent "third party," received threatening telephone calls, he told Dist. Atty. Pitts.

Mrs. Lydia Swenson, wife of a retired Duluth, Minn., lumberman, was arraigned yesterday charged with mailing Alma Semple McPherson a threat note. Her bail was fixed at \$25,000 pending a hearing March 31. She claimed it was a "joke."

9-1639-18

WASHINGTON NEWS  
MARCH 27, 1937

507

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson     |  |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm |  |
| Mr. Clegg      |  |
| Mr. Glavin     |  |
| Mr. Ladd       |  |
| Mr. Nichols    |  |
| Mr. Rosen      |  |
| Mr. Tracy      |  |
| Mr. Carson     |  |
| Mr. Egan       |  |
| Mr. Gurnea     |  |
| Mr. Hendon     |  |
| Mr. Pennington |  |
| Mr. Quinn      |  |
| Mr. Nease      |  |
| Miss Gandy     |  |

## Handwriting Expert Expects Glew in Wong Threat Note

Definite developments from an examination of a threat note, sent to Anna May Wong, Chinese motion-picture actress, last Thursday, are expected today by Clark Sellers, handwriting expert conducting the test.

Meanwhile, Capt. Clyde I. Plummer, head of a staff of investigators for Dist. Atty. Fitts, announced that authorities are continuing a widespread search for the writer of the note. Capt. Plummer is in charge of the investigation.

7-2639-16

LOS ANGELES TIMES

APR 5 1937

## Extortion Case Inquiry Pushed

**Crank or Demented  
Individual Suspected;  
Woman's Past Recalled**

Police continued to check the handwriting of numerous suspects yesterday in an effort to apprehend the writer of \$20,000 extortion notes mailed Anna May Wong, Chinese film actress, and Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the film producer.

In the belief the letters were sent by the same person, possibly a crank or demented individual, authorities centered their investigation on persons known to have employed similar tactics before.

### TRAGEDIES IN HER LIFE

Meanwhile from Pine City, Minn., came word from friends of Mrs. Lydia Swenson, held in the County Jail here in lieu of \$25,000 bond for writing a \$200 extortion note to Almee Semple McPherson, regarding a series of tragedies in her life.

Friends of the accused woman, who admitted sending the extortion note, recalled that her first husband and two of her sons all died within a short period of time. A year ago she married Peter Swenson, a wealthy farmer, and they moved to Glendale, where she was arrested.

### HAS PSYCHIC LEANINGS

It also was said that Mrs. Swenson always has manifested a great interest in psychic phenomena and fortune telling, occasionally declaring she saw visions of what later transpired.

Dr. Ar. M. Foote, 61-year-old Spanish War veteran whose name was signed to the notes sent Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick, and Mrs. McPherson, remained under police guard yesterday because of threats against their lives.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Starnes  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Telford  
Mr. Winterrowd

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

MAR 29 1937

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
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Mr. Jones .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Mr. Gandy .....

## Easter Bunny Slighted in Extort Quiz

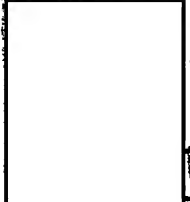
Police continued to check the handwriting of numerous suspects yesterday in an effort to apprehend the writer of \$20,000 extortion notes mailed Anna May Wong, Chinese film actress, and David O. Selznick, film producer, and aren't the wild flowers lovely this year?

The Easter bunny to date has escaped scrutiny in the case, but with April Fool's Day coming up, some new theories may be expected, unless the case should be dropped, then like an explosive cigar because of public preoccupation with other affairs.

A dark suspicion has arisen that desire for publicity may possibly have something to do with the extortion notes. Two press agents were sent for when this theory gained acceptance, and their handwriting taken for comparison with that in the extortion notes sent Miss Wong, Selznick and Almee Sample McPherson.

Who the press agents were and what the handwriting examples proved, if anything, was kept secret in view of the popular misconception that press agents can neither write nor spell.

Capt. Clyde L. Plummer, chief of the district attorney's Bureau of Investigation, absolved both Miss Wong and Selznick of responsibility for writing the letters, even though it should result that they were sent for publicity, and not for actual extortion.



b6  
b7C

9-2639-15



## Publicity odor in extort plot

Crackpots or publicity men—investigators had the field narrowed down today in Hollywood's poison pen passion play, "Jesus" \$20,000 extortion notes case.

Samples of handwriting from friends and relatives of Film Producer David O. Selznick, Actress Anna May Wong and Dr. A. M. Foote who received notes from the man who wants to play Jesus in a film, and from persons close to Evangelist Aimee Sample McPherson, Film Mogul Louis B. Mayer and others mentioned in the note, were being compared with the original.

But the main interest centered in the handwriting samples from two unnamed press agents.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Gandy

b6  
b7C

9-16-29-R

LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS

MAR 20 1937



## ACTRESS SENT NEW THREAT

HOLLYWOOD, April 3 (I.N.S.). Federal and State authorities today studied a new extortion letter addressed to Anna May Wong, Chinese screen actress, threatened with torture recently unless she paid \$20,000.  
Pin punctures on a piece of wrapping paper spelled the words, "You are not yet safe. What is money compared with your life?" It was signed "Shu."

9-2637-10

THE TIMES

APR 3 - 1937

b6  
b7C

## Suspect in Film Threat Is Hunted

HOLLYWOOD, March 25—(UP)—District Attorney Buron Fitts today stationed police to watch the home of a man whom he suspects of sending extortion letters to Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, and David O. Selznick, producer.

Fitts said Selznick gave him the name of the man he suspected.

Miss Wong, a Los Angeles-born beauty, said she had the jitters and had not been able to sleep since she got one of the crotchety letters demanding \$20,000 under threat of disfigurement to the Wong and Selznick families.

"If I were a true Chinese, this wouldn't bother me," she said. "I would sleep soundly in the belief that what the gods will, must be. But I've got the jitters."

She recently returned from her first trip to China and has placed herself under guard in seclusion since she was threatened.

The letter writer said he "looked just like Christ" and wanted the money to produce a movie in which he could star. He also said he was responsible for the attempt to assassinate Fitts this month, but Fitts doubted it. The district attorney was wounded in the arm when several men fired at him from an automobile.

Fitts planned to question Selznick and also Dr. E. J. Foote, chiropractor, who received a third note designating him as intermediary for the \$20,000 payments.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

SEATTLE STAR  
MARCH 25-1937

4  
6  
9-2639-A



THE MINNEAPOLIS SUNDAY TRIBUNE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, MARCH 28, 1937

### Extortion Threats Held Publicity Gag

By Associated Press.  
Los Angeles, March 27.—Investi-  
gators advanced a theory Satur-  
day extortion letters received by  
Anna May Wong and film pro-  
ducer David Selznick were written  
as a publicity gag. "We are in-  
vestigating every possible phase,"  
said Clyde Plummer, chief in-  
vestigator for the district attorney's  
office, "and one phase is that the  
letters were written by some per-  
son, submerged in the routine of  
life, who desired publicity."

Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Humphreys  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph

b6  
b7C

Mr. E.  
Mr. F.  
Mr. F.

7-2639-B

## Woman Seized in Wong Threat

HOLLYWOOD, March 26 (By International News Service).—Arresting one woman and announcing they had cleaned up a new phase of the case as fast as it developed, authorities today were still confronted with the bizarre extortion plot directed against Anna May Wong, Chinese screen star, and Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the film producer.

A middle-aged woman from Duluth, Minn., was arrested and charged with writing a new threat note to Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson.

At the same time police revealed that the evangelist received another note yesterday signed "A. M. Foote," the same signature that appeared on the notes received by Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick.

The suspect, who gave her name as Mrs. Lydia Swenson, 51, was arrested in her home.

NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL

Forwarded by New York Office

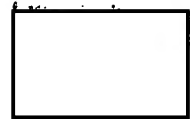
MAR 26 1937

9-2639-A

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

b6  
b7C

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gandy



b6  
b7C

## BLAME ADDICT IN EXTORT PLOT

HOLLYWOOD, March 25.—(By International News Service.)—Studying handwriting samples and watching a "stakeout" for a known narcotic addict, officials today intensified their investigation of the bizarre extortion plot involving Anna May Wong, Mrs. David O. Selznick and Aimee Semple McPherson.

All three women were under close police guard as local officers and government men sought the writer or writers of threatening letters.

Miss Wong, the exotic Chinese film star, and Mrs. Selznick, wife of the picture producer, were each asked \$20,000 under pain of crippling their relatives.

Mrs. McPherson, the evangelist, received letters demanding that she stop preaching, and her name figured in the letters written the other two women.

G-men, called into the case by police yesterday, announced they had started a "process of elimination study of handwriting."

9-2637-4

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

3-25-37



NEW ORLEANS STATES  
March 24, 1937

## Actress Threatened

ANNA MAY WONG, Chinese-American film actress, who received an extortion note threatening to disfigure her for life and cripple her father unless she advanced \$20,000 for financing a motion picture. The family of David O. Selznick, film producer, received a similar threat and a demand for \$20,000.



## THREATEN WIFE OF PRODUCER, MOVIE STAR

(By The Associated Press)  
Hollywood, March 24.—Marital extortion threats against the family of David O. Selznick, film producer, and Anna May Wong, Chinese actress, were disclosed by district attorney's investigators today.

A note received by Miss Wong yesterday threatened to disfigure her for life and cripple her father unless she advanced \$20,000 for financing a motion picture, Captain Clyde Plummer said.

Another letter, intended for Mrs. David O. Selznick, asked for \$20,000 in unmarked bills on pain of bodily harm to her young son and to her father, who was not mentioned by name. He is Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios.

Believed to have been selected as a third victim of the extortion plot, Plummer said, was Dr. E. J. Foote, chiropractor and Spanish-American war veteran.

Dr. Foote, who turned over to Plummer a threatening note which he said he also had received, was held as a material witness. The message commanded him to receive the money as intermediary and hold it for further instructions if he wished to survive.

Plummer said the projected movie mentioned by the extortionist apparently was to be on a Biblical subject and suggested Evangelist Almee Semple McPherson for a role.

This inclusion of Mrs. McPherson's name led investigators to believe the writer was the same person who recently mailed threatening notes to

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9-2639-A

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan     | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson     | ..... |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg      | ..... |
| Mr. Glavin     | ..... |
| Mr. Ladd       | ..... |
| Mr. Nichols    | ..... |
| Mr. Rosen      | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy      | ..... |
| Mr. Carson     | ..... |
| Mr. Egan       | ..... |
| Mr. Gurnea     | ..... |
| Mr. Hendon     | ..... |
| Mr. Jones      | ..... |
| Mr. Mumford    | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn      | ..... |
| Mr. Nease      | ..... |
| Mr. Gandy      | ..... |

her at the time she was taken to a police guard or her home.

Mrs. Plummer's letter was addressed to the home of Joseph Selznick, a distant relative of her husband, who opened it at the request of the producer's secretary and read it over the telephone.

Among the instructions for contacting the writer, Selznick said, was the warning: "If you attempt a trap or call police, I have the most cruel means beyond your imagination of disposing of anyone sent to catch me."

Letter Signed 'The Gang'  
Plummer said it was apparent another person used Dr. Foote's name and address in the letters to Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong inasmuch as the writing differed from that of the director. Dr. Foote's letter was signed "The Gang."

Department of Justice agents were notified of the apparent plot, instigated by a series aimed at screen celebrities.

In recent months, Shirley Temple, Freddie Bartholomew and Jane Withers, child stars, have been among the intended victims of extortionists. Few in the film colony have escaped receiving notes by "cranks," usually containing vague threats of harm.

A 16-year-old boy last year was charged with writing Shirley's mother a demand for \$25,000. Not long ago a middle-aged itinerant walked into a Los Angeles police station and confessed he tried to extort \$5000 from Jane and \$25,000 from Freddie.

NEW ORLEANS ITEM  
March 24, 1937

# Extortion Threats Sent To Film Folk By Aimee Fanatic

Threatened



MRS. SELZNICK



ANNA MAY WONG

Letters To Mrs. Selznick  
And Anna May Wong  
Ask \$40,000 To Back  
Show On 4-Square  
Head

(By The Associated Press)  
HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—Maniacal extortion threats against the family of David O. Selznick, film producer, and Anna May Wong, Chinese actress, were disclosed by district attorney's investigators today.

A note received by Miss Wong yesterday threatened to disfigure her for life and cripple her father unless she advanced \$20,000 for financing a motion picture, Captain Clyde Plummer said.

Another letter, intended for Mrs. David O. Selznick, asked for \$20,000 in unmarked bills on pain of bodily harm to her young son and to her father, who was not mentioned by name. He is Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios.

Believed to have been selected as a third victim of the extortion plot, Plummer said, was Dr. E. J. Foote, chiropractor and Spanish-American war veteran.

Dr. Foote, who turned over to Plummer a threatening note which he said he also had received, was held as a material witness. The message commanded him to receive the money as intermediary and hold it for further instructions if he wished to survive.

Plummer said the projected movie mentioned by the extortionist apparently was to be on a libelous subject and suggested Frank Lloyd Wright as the subject.

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## Victim

CHIROPRACTOR THREAT-  
ENED IN EXTORTION.



**DR. A. M. FOOTE.**  
A chiropractor, was photo-  
graphed yesterday at Los An-  
geles during investigation of  
extortion notes demanding  
\$20,000 sent to Anna May  
Wong, Chinese actress, and  
Mrs. David O. Selznick. The  
notes were signed "Dr. A. M.  
Foote." The chiropractor also  
received a similar letter ad-  
dressed to him and signed  
"The Gang."

—Copyright, A. P. Wire

THE EVENING STAR  
MARCH 25, 1937



# Selznick's Son Periled

Letter Asks \$20,000  
From Producer or  
Child to Be Blinded

Federal agents and police last midnight sought a maniacal self-styled physician who demanded \$20,000 of David O. Selznick, motion-picture producer, in a rambling letter in which he declared he will cruelly blind Selznick's son unless payment is made.

In the letter, which was signed "A. M. Foote, M.D.," the writer demanded the money for a scenario he has worked out with Selznick in the title role. The cast, the demand stated, is to include Anna May Wong, noted Chinese American actress; Aimee Semple McPherson and Selznick's brother, Myron Selznick.

## LETTER OPENED

Misdirected to Joseph Selznick, a relative of the producer, who lives at 714 North Alta Vista avenue, the former opened it on request of the producer's secretary, who asked him to read it over a telephone. Joseph Selznick told police he did not know the contents of the letter until he contacted his relative's secretary.

He told police he opened it and read excerpts which said the producer "is now facing a demand for \$20,000 upon pain of having his child blinded and crippled for life."

## TWO CHILDREN

David Selznick's wife is the former Irene Mayer, daughter of Louis B. Mayer, production head of the M.C.M. studios. They have two children.

The letter, the recipient told police, read:

"I am not under the influence of narcotics and you must act according to my instructions."

At this point, the producer's relative told officers, the writer gave instructions for the firm man to telephone a hotel on South Hope street and make an appointment.

## THREATS MADE

Continuing his description of the contents of the letter, the relative told police:

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gandy

b6  
b7C

LOS ANGELES TIMES  
MAR 24 1937

## Anna May Wong Gets Extort Note



ANNA MAY WONG, CHINESE FILM STAR  
Her Home Is Under Heavy Guard

### Demand for \$20,000 Also Sent to Wife of David C. Selznick

HOLLYWOOD, March 24. (By International News Service).—A bizarre extortion plot involving Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, and the family of producer David O. Selznick, was revealed by police here today.

Both Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick received threatening notes demanding \$20,000. Heavy police guards were thrown about their homes today.

At the same time, police revealed they were holding Dr. E. J. Foote, chiropractor, as a material witness in the case.

Dr. Foote himself turned over a similar extortion note in which he was instructed to obtain the money from Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick and "hold it for the gang."

His name appeared below the notes received by the two women.



MRS. DAVID O. SELZNICK  
Target of Extortionists

NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL

Forwarded by New York Office

MAR 24 1937

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Mr. Nathan  | ✓ |
| Mr. Tolson  | ✓ |
| Mr. Clegg   | ✓ |
| Mr. Glavin  | ✓ |
| Mr. Ladd    | ✓ |
| Mr. Nichols | ✓ |
| Mr. Rosen   | ✓ |
| Mr. Tracy   | ✓ |
| Mr. Carson  | ✓ |
| Mr. Egan    | ✓ |
| Mr. Gurnea  | ✓ |
| Mr. Hendon  | ✓ |
| Mr. Jones   | ✓ |
| Mr. Quinn   | ✓ |
| Mr. Nease   | ✓ |
| Mr. Tamm    | ✓ |
| Mr. Egan    | ✓ |
| Mr. Gurnea  | ✓ |
| Mr. Hendon  | ✓ |
| Mr. Jones   | ✓ |
| Mr. Quinn   | ✓ |
| Mr. Nease   | ✓ |
| Mr. Tamm    | ✓ |

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b7C

9-2639-18





been used. I can strike quick, quick like I did to Baron Elita when he took a warning from me as other warnings. Had I desired to kill him, I could have done so. I added to his injuries. Look at him. That's you if you do not comply.

"Assure me by phone immediately and come to my room at once or I strike."

The letter was signed, "A. M. Foote, M. D., 606 South Hope street. The letter received by Dr. Foote read:

"Dr. A. M. Foote: "A sum of ransom money will be placed in your hands by the following persons or a representative of theirs, Selznick, Anna May Wong or Dr. McCoy. You will take good care of this money until we contact you and obtain it from you.

"Now you say nothing to anybody in this hotel, but you wait until you are called and you make arrangements to get this paid you in your room.

#### NO NEWS OUT

"Now so far there is no news out and everything goes allright if you carry out your part. This is money for the son of David Selznick.

"Now how do we pick you. Well we know that one of the studio scouts has picked you out to play the part of Jesus. You may notice if your not too modest that you are the direct counterpart of Jesus. Just look at yourself in the glass and visualize yourself in the beard and robes of Jesus. Well they are contemplating using you and Almee McPherson is to play a part, and Dr. McCoy is too. That's why the gang picked you out as these people know, you see."

The letter was signed, "The Gang." Reference to Dr. McCoy in one of the letters led the police to call Dr. Frank McCoy at 1151 Sixth street. Dr. McCoy stated he had not received any threats through the mail. He added, however, that he gets a large quantity of mail daily and that he would have employee search through the letters received to ascertain if one had been sent.

Meanwhile, Clyde L. Plummer, chief investigator for the district attorney's office, who is working with police and federal agents on the case, declared that trace of a definite suspect has been found and that an arrest probably will be made before nightfall.

#### POSING AS DOCTOR

Plummer said that the writer of the letters apparently posed as Dr. A. M. Foote in an effort to make the latter an intermediary.

Dr. Foote, a retired chiropractor and a veteran of the Spanish-American war, was held in technical custody as a possible material witness. Plummer said he has compared Dr. Foote's handwriting to that of the three letters and ascertained there is no similarity.

\$20,000 under threat that her two small sons would be bit and crippled.

She is the daughter of Louis B. Mayer, head of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios. The letter addressed to Mrs. Selznick "in care of Joseph Selznick" was delivered at the latter's home, 714 North Alta Vista avenue, and awaited his return from work at the R-K-O studio. Selznick, a distant relative of the producer, telephoned the latter after reading the letter, and then turned the letter over to Hollywood police.

The letter read in part:

"This demand is for the purpose of guaranteeing \$20,000 to me for a scenario I have worked out, with me to play the title role. I resemble Christ and I intend to play the part of Aaron with Anna May Wong in a Chinese part and Almee Semple McPherson and your brother-in-law, Myron, also taking part.

"With growth of a beard and robes which your brother-in-law can furnish I would be the picture of Christ."

The writer of the letters apparently was confused as to the correct relationship in the Selznick family. In one portion of the Selznick note he referred to Myron Selznick as the son of David, and thereafter called him a brother-in-law. Actually, Myron Selznick is a brother of David O. Selznick, and is one of the foremost theatrical agents of Hollywood.

David O. Selznick's two sons are Jeffrey, 5 years old, and Daniel, 2.



THE ABERDEEN EVENING NEWS, ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA, MARCH 27, 1937

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan   | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson   | ..... |
| Mr. Baughman | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg    | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey   | ..... |
| Mr. Glavin   | ..... |
| Mr. Ladd     | ..... |
| Mr. Nichols  | ..... |
| Mr. Rosen    | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy    | ..... |
| Mr. Carson   | ..... |
| Mr. Egan     | ..... |
| Mr. Gurnea   | ..... |
| Mr. Hendon   | ..... |
| Mr. Jones    | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn    | ..... |
| Mr. Nease    | ..... |
| Mr. Gandy    | ..... |

## WRITER SOUGHT IN THREAT CASE

LOS ANGELES —(AP)— A man who has been trying to sell a biblical scenario to the movies and play the leading role was sought by police Friday night in their investigation of extortion notes sent to two members of the Hollywood film colony.

Police said the man may be the person who sent letters demanding \$20,000 each to Anna May Wong, Chinese actress, and David O. Selznick, producer. In both letters, the writer said he resembled Jesus Christ and wanted to play the role.

Movie executives told authorities they had been annoyed recently by a man with similar ideas.

9-2637-A

# Crank Notes Menace Anna Wong, Selznicks



ANNA MAY WONG



MRS. DAVID O. SELZNICK

## Threaten to Disfigure Chinese Actress, In- jure Producer's Family—Demand Biblical Picture Backing

HOLLYWOOD, March 24 (AP).—  
Maniacal extortion threats against  
the family of David O. Selznick,  
film producer, and Anna May Wong,  
Chinese actress, were disclosed by  
District Attorney's investigators to-  
day.

A note received by Miss Wong  
yesterday threatened to disfigure  
her for life and cripple her father  
unless she advanced \$20,000 for  
financing a motion picture, Captain  
Clyde Plummer said.

Another letter, intended for Mrs.  
David O. Selznick, asked for \$20,000  
in unmarked bills on pain of bodily  
harm to her young son and to her  
father, who was not mentioned by  
name. He is Louis B. Mayer, head  
of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios.

### Doctor on List

Believed to have been selected as  
a third victim of the extortion plot,  
Plummer said, was Dr. F. J. Foote,  
chiropractor and Spanish-American  
War veteran.

Dr. Foote, who turned over to  
Plummer a threatening note which  
he said he also had received, was  
not a material witness. The  
message commanded him to receive  
the money as intermediary and hand  
it over "further instructions." He  
said he had no further information.

movie mentioned by the extortionist  
apparently was to be on a Biblical  
subject and suggested Evangelist  
Almce Semple McPherson for a  
role.

This inclusion of Mrs. McPherson's  
name led investigators to theor-  
ize the writer was the same per-  
son who recently mailed threaten-  
ing notes to her at Angelus Temple,  
resulting in a police guard at her  
sermons.

### Read Over Telephone

Mrs. Selznick's letter was ad-  
dressed to the home of Joseph Selznick,  
a distant relative of her hus-  
band, who opened it at the request  
of the producer's secretary and read  
it over the telephone.

Among the instructions for con-  
tacting the writer, Selznick said,  
was the warning: "If you attempt a  
trap or call police, I have the most  
cruel means beyond your imagina-  
tion of disposing of anyone sent to  
catch me."

Plummer said it was apparent  
another person used Dr. Foote's  
name and address in the letters to  
Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong. He  
said the writing differed from  
that of the chiropractor. Dr. Foote's  
letter was signed "The Great  
Department of Justice." He  
said he had no further information.

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease

b6  
b7C

NEW YORK POST

Forwarded by New York Office

MAR 24 1937

9-2639-18

Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn

## Actress Receives Threat



ANNA MAY WONG

HOLLYWOOD, March 24 (I.N.S.)—A bizarre extortion plot, involving Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, and the family of Producer David O. Selznick, was revealed by police here today.

Both Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick received threatening notes demanding \$20,000. Heavy police guards were placed about their homes today. At the same time police revealed they were holding Dr. R. J. Foote, chiropractor, as a material witness in the case.

Dr. Foote himself turned over a similar extortion note in which he was instructed to obtain the money from Miss Wong and Mrs. Selznick and "hold it for the gang."

His name appeared below the notes received by the two women.

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b7C

9-2639-A

WASHINGTON TIMES  
MARCH 24, 1937



### Extortion Targets



[Acme Photo.]  
David O. Selznick, film producer, and his wife. They were two of Hollywood notables to receive extortion notes.



[REUTERS Photo.]  
Louis B. Meyer, father of Max Selznick, apparently intended as third extortion victim.



[Acme Photo.]  
Anna May Wong, Chinese actress, who was threatened with disfigurement unless she advanced \$20,000 "for financing a motion picture."

Hollywood, Cal., March 24.—(Special.)—A "movie madman" with "delusions of grandeur" was believed by authorities today to be the author of two extortion notes sent to Anna May Wong, Chinese screen actress, and David Selznick, motion picture producer.

Capt. Clyde Plummer, in charge of the search for the extortionist, also expressed the belief the same person wrote a threatening letter to Althea Semple McPherson, noted woman evangelist, whose Angelus temple recently was placed under police guard. In the letter to Miss Wong, Capt. Plummer said, the extortionist demanded \$20,000 for financing a motion picture, threatening to disfigure the actress for life and cripple her father unless the money was paid.

A similar sum was demanded in the note to Selznick on threat of blinding his two small sons.

Both letters were signed "Dr. A. M. [redacted], M. D." and gave the address and telephone number of a hotel. Police questioned Dr. E. J. Foster, a chiropractor, who said he had received a threatening note in the same

9-2637-A

3-25-37



# Psychiatrist Faces Threat Note Inquiry

## PSYCHIATRIST FACES THREAT NOTE INQUIRY

Dr. Cecil Reynolds Will Be Questioned  
About Letters to Two Film Notables

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holmes  
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-10-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

Wong, Max, residing  
and others, claiming  
possession of each on part of crop  
from their relatives, will bring  
the same before the court and  
the same will be sold at public  
sale.

"In my opinion," Proctor said, "the letters were written by some one with the evident intent to deceive Dr. Foote. I am not a specialist when examining handwriting, but I am sure that the letters were written by some one other than Dr. Foote."

...where home was under guard yesterday. Officials said...  
...a threatening letter by the film producer's wife...  
...a highly undisciplined man.

Sergeant of Jesus. Just  
 yourself in the glass and  
 of yourself in the hands  
 of Jesus. Well, they  
 are not the same. The  
 Father and Son.  
 and the Holy Spirit.





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looked the part, was hunted last night as the writer of extortion letters threatening physical disfigurement to Anna May Wong and David O. Selznick, film notables.

The writer wanted \$20,000 each from the Chinese actress and from Selznick, son-in-law of Louis B. Mayer. The money was to be a "guarantee of co-operation." The motion picture, with Mr. X playing Christ, was to be produced on Mayer's M-G-M lot.

Whether Cecil B. DeMille was to direct, the author did not disclose.

While the grandiose notes were



ANNA MAY WONG  
not taken seriously as motion picture possibilities, the "demented" character of the writer caused Dist. Atty. Byron Fitts enough concern to prompt him to take personal charge of the investigation.

At the end of a fruitless day's search, Chief Investigator Clyde Plummer of Fitts' office had reached nowhere on the trail of the movie-mad Messiahmaniac.

For safety, Miss Wong, in her



MRS. DAVID O. SELZNICK

home at 1434 Wilshire boulevard, and Selznick and members of his family were under guard.

A third person under guard furnished by the District Attorney's office was Dr. A. M. Foote, 60, a chiropractor and Spanish-American war veteran. He, too, received one of the mystery letters.

The letter to Miss Wong was signed "A. M. Foote, M. D." and



DR. A. M. FOOTE

sent from a hotel at 606 South Hope street.

"I can strike quick, like I did to Byron Fitts when he took a warning from me as other warnings," continued the letter. "Had I desired to kill him, I could have done so. I added to his injuries. Look at him. That's you if you do not comply."

Once during the day, Capt. Plummer thought he had his man. He sent three investigators to a designated address with instructions to pick up a "short, plump man." They returned empty-handed. According to their report, the man they found was a "short, plump violinist."

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DATE 07-10-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

MAR 25 1937

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9-2637-11

ed. According to their report, the man they found was with a gun and a knife.

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DATE 07-10-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

# Writer of Extortion Threats Eludes Sleuths

## Anna May Wong Gets 'Gang' Threat

## Crank Suspected; Selznick Also Target

LOS ANGELES, March 24  
— Investigators of a  
series of threats against  
the actress Anna May Wong  
and her husband, Cedric Belfrage,  
said today they suspect a  
"crank" is behind the threats.  
The threats, which began in  
1935, were directed at Wong  
and her husband, who were  
then living in Hollywood.  
The threats were in the form  
of letters and phone calls.  
The letters were signed "The  
Gang" and "The Mob".  
The phone calls were made  
from a pay phone in a  
Hollywood hotel.  
The threats were directed  
at Wong and her husband  
because of their association  
with the film industry.  
The threats were directed  
at Wong and her husband  
because of their association  
with the film industry.

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DATE 07-10-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc



ANNA MAY WONG  
Give of Three Persons to Receive Mystery Letters in Los Angeles Demand Money Under Threats

2-26-59

Wash. D.C.  
3.25.37

[illegible]

KODAKSA



Death Threatened

## POLICE HUNTING FOR EXTORTIONIST



MRS. DAVID O. SELZNICK (no relation),  
Addressed to her in care of Joseph Selznick and Dr. A. M. Foote, District At.  
A letter threatened her two children, Jeffrey and Daniel.

## Letter Demands \$20,000 of Film Notables

Taking personal charge of the investigation of threatening letters received by Anna May Wong, Almee Semple McPherson, David O. Selznick and Dr. A. M. Foote, District Attorney Burr Pitts said last night that watch was being kept on the home of a man named Selznick as a possible suspect. Pitts, whose name appears in the letters as a victim of the writer, said he would question Miss Wong today. Meanwhile investigators were engaged in a check of persons in contact with those threatened. One of those who volunteered to aid the wedding out pioneer was Dr. Orell Reynolds, psychiatrist, who told authorities he would appear at Pitts' office at 9:30 a. m. today to have his fingerprints and handwriting samples taken. Widely separated individuals. (Continued on Page 1, Column 1)

I Will Destroy Your People

## 'Police No Match for Me,' Says Writer of Threat to Actress

### Extortionist Demands \$20,000

Handwritten letter to Anna May Wong, dated May 10, 1935, demanding \$20,000. The letter is written in a cursive script and is addressed to Anna May Wong at her home in Hollywood.

The three letters were mailed early Monday afternoon through the Arcade Station. All were written as if by an educated person. The letter to Miss Wong, sent to her home address, which is known to few persons, was signed "A. M. Foote, M. D." and read:

"Unless you come down to my room immediately with \$20,000 you will be disgraced and your father crippled and others close to you will be injured. First call my number, TELNity 6831, and ask for me. Dr. A. M. Foote. The address is Valdemar Hotel, 606 South Hope street."

'Courage to Sign' "You may think a doctor writing such a letter is crazy under the influence of narcotics, but I have narcotics in control and I have the courage to sign my name. You do not need to lose the \$20,000. It is a mere guarantee of cooperation in the fullest extent on your part."

"I am going to induce Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to have as in the same picture. When this is carried out the money will be returned. Almee Semple McPherson and Doctor McCoy will be in the picture."

"I will play the part of Jesus, as I look just like him. Be sure you call the right number, now, and don't try to call the police, as you will only cause a terrible toll in lives."

"I do not intend to be a fugitive and if you folks are sensible, you will be safe. I will not hold you responsible for what others do. I will destroy people connected with you, as you are to blame. I know you have the money and I will immediately act to strike if you try any tricks."

'Police No Match' "No police are a match for me, physically or mentally, and while I have a very kind disposition, my very kindness in position, my very kindness in position, my ultimate purpose will cause me to excel all human flesh. I have plans such beyond needs in plans such beyond what I have ever hinted."

"I can read for cars in the garage of the millionaire's club and no one knows they have even been used. I did strike quick, quick, like I did to Burr Pitts when he took a warning from me as other warnings. Had I desired to kill him, I could have done so. I added to his injuries. Look at him. That's you. If you do not comply."

"Assure me by phone leave directly and come to my room and we will strike."

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DATE 07-10-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

reached Selznick was addressed to Mrs. David Selznick in care of Joseph Selznick, 741 North Alta Vista avenue. Joseph Selznick, who is employed at RKO studio, is no relative of the producer. He notified the latter and sent him the letter, which was turned over to authorities.

Children Threatened With threats that the two Selznick children, Jeffrey, 8, and Daniel, 2, would be blinded and crippled if the demand of the writer were not met, the letter stated.

"This demand is for the purpose of guaranteeing \$20,000 to me for a scenario I have worked out, with me to play the little role. I resemble Christ and I intend to play the part of Aaron, with Anna May Wong in a Chinese part and Almee Semple McPherson and Myron Selznick also taking part."

"With growth of a beard and robes which your brother-in-law can furnish, I would be the Jesus of Christ." The letter to Doctor Foote read:

"A sum of ransom money will be placed in your hands by the following persons or a representative of theirs: Selznick, Anna May Wong or Doctor McCoy. You will take good care of this money until we contact you and obtain it from you."

'Say Nothing' "Now you say nothing to anybody in this hotel, but you wait until you are called and you make arrangements to get this paid you in your room. Now, as far there is no news out and everything goes all right if you carry out your part. This is money for the son of David Selznick."

# THREATS SENT FILM TYCOON, CHINESE STAR

Hollywood, March 24 (AP).—Maniacal extortion threats against the family of David O. Selznick, film producer, and Anna May Wong, Chinese actress, were enclosed by district attorney's investigators today.

A note received by Miss Wong yesterday threatened to disfigure her for life and cripple her father unless she advanced

\$20,000 for financing a motion picture, Capt. Clyde Plummer said.

Another letter, intended for



Anna May Wong



Mr. and Mrs. David Selznick

Mrs. David O. Selznick, asked for \$20,000 in unmarked bills on pain of bodily harm to her young son and to her father, who was not mentioned by

(Continued on page 24, col. 1)

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9-2637-18

3.24.37

## Terrorize Three in Film Capital Extortion Plot

(Continued from page 3)

name. He is Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios.

Believed to have been selected as a third victim of the extortion plot,



Louis B. Mayer

Plummer said, was Dr. R. J. Foote, chiropractor and Spanish-American war veteran.

Dr. Foote, who turned over to Plummer a threatening note which he said he also had received, was held as a material witness. The message commanded him to receive the money as intermediary and hold it for further instructions if he wished to survive.

Plummer said the projected movie mentioned by the note, which apparently was to be a historical subject and suggested King Lear, at Aimee Temple McPherson (to be played by Aimee) role.

### AIMEE TEMPLE LINKED

This inclusion of Aimee McPherson's name led investigators to theorize the writer was the same person who recently received threatening notes to her at Angelus Temple, resulting in a police guard at her sermons.

Mrs. Feinick's letter was addressed to the home of Joseph Feinick, a distant relative of her husband, who opened it at the request of L.B. producer's secretary and read it over the telephone.

Among the instructions for contacting the writer, Feinick said, was the warning: "If you attempt a trap or call police, I have the most cruel methods imaginable of disposing of anyone sent to catch me."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

3. 24-37



### Suspect in Film Colony Extortion Plot Watched

By United Press

HOLLYWOOD—Dist. Atty. Burron Filla today stationed police to watch the home of a man whom he suspects of sending extortion letters to Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, and David O. Reiznick, producer.

Miss Wong, a Los Angeles-born beauty, said she had the jitters and had not been able to sleep since she got one of the crotchety letters demanding \$20,000 under threat of disfigurement to the Wong and Reiznick families.

The letter writer wanted money to produce a movie in which he could star. He also said he was responsible for the attempt to assassinate Filla this month, but Filla doubted it. The District Attorney was wounded in the arm when several men fired at him from an auto.

WASH. NEWS

MAR 25 1937

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## Threat to Film Actress Investigated by Police

By United Press

HOLLYWOOD — Extortion letters sent Anna May Wong, Chinese film beauty, and Mrs. David O. Selznick, producer's wife, sent police in search of a man they believed was a madman, while they held an aged doctor as a material witness.

Miss Wong was threatened with disfigurement and her father with maiming unless she advanced \$20,000 for the production of a weird motion picture scheme concocted by the note-writer. Mrs. Selznick was ordered to pay \$20,000 with the threat her two small sons would be blinded and crippled if she failed.

A "Dr. Foote," chiropractor and Spanish-American War "hero" was held as a material witness. Both notes were signed either "E. J. Foote" or "A. M. Foote, M.D." Authorities believed the chiropractor was a potent, selected by the note-writer as his intermediary.

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DATE 07-10-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc



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MAR 24 1937



## MANIAC MENACES DAVID O. SELZNICK

Extortion Threats Also Re-  
ceived by Anna May  
Wong.

By the Associated Press.

HOLLYWOOD, March 24.—Maniacal extortion threats against the family of David O. Selznick, film producer, and Anna May Wong, Chinese actress, were disclosed by district attorney's investigators today.

A note received by Miss Wong yesterday threatened to disfigure her for life and cripple her father unless she advanced \$20,000 for financing a motion picture, Capt. Clyde Plummer said.

Another letter, intended for Mrs. David O. Selznick, asked for \$20,000 in unmarked bills on pain of bodily harm to her young son and to her father, who was not mentioned by name. He is Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios.

Believed to have been selected as a third victim of the extortion plot, Plummer said, was Dr. E. J. Foote, chiropractor and Spanish-American War veteran.

Dr. Foote, who turned over to Plummer a threatening note which he said he also had received, was held as a material witness. The message commanded him to receive the money as intermediary and hold it for further instructions if he wished to survive.

Plummer said the projected movie mentioned by the extortionist apparently was to be on a biblical subject and suggested Evangelist Althea Semple McPherson for a role.

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MAR 24 1937

## Extortionist Menaces Film Mogul, Player

David O. Selznick Family  
and Anna May Wong Get  
Threatening Letters

By Associated Press  
HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Wednesday,  
March 24. — Mysterious extortion  
letters aimed at the family of David  
O. Selznick, film producer, and  
Anna May Wong, actress, were received by district  
attorney's investigators today.



Another letter, demanded for Mrs.  
David O. Selznick, asked for \$25,000  
to guarantee him on job of finding  
home for her young son and to her  
father, who was not mentioned by  
name. He is Louis H. Selznick, head  
of Famous Players-Lasker Corp., located  
at 1500 Broadway, New York City.

Another letter, demanded for Mrs.  
David O. Selznick, asked for \$25,000  
to guarantee him on job of finding  
home for her young son and to her  
father, who was not mentioned by  
name. He is Louis H. Selznick, head  
of Famous Players-Lasker Corp., located  
at 1500 Broadway, New York City.

|                |
|----------------|
| Mr. Nathan     |
| Mr. Tolson     |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm |
| Mr. Clegg      |
| Mr. Glavin     |
| Mr. Ladd       |
| Mr. Nichols    |
| Mr. Rosen      |
| Mr. Tracy      |
| Mr. Carson     |
| Mr. Coffey     |
| Mr. Hendon     |
| Mr. Jones      |
| Mr. Quinn      |
| Mr. Nease      |
| Miss Gandy     |

The Seattle Daily Times  
8/24/57

Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Baughman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Dwyer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

## Anna Wong Guarded In Extortion Plot

HOLLYWOOD, March 24  
(I.N.S.)—A bizarre extortion plot,  
involving Anna May Wong, Chi-  
nese film star, and the family of  
Producer David O. Selznick, was  
revealed by police here today.

Both Miss Wong and Mrs. Selz-  
nick received threatening notes  
demanding \$20,000. Heavy police  
guards were placed about their  
homes today. At the same time  
police revealed they were hold-  
ing Dr. E. J. Foote, chiropractor,  
as a material witness in the case.

Dr. Foote himself turned over a  
similar extortion note in which  
he was instructed to obtain the  
money from Miss Wong and Mrs.  
Selznick, and "hold it for the  
gang."

His name appeared below the  
notes received by the two women.



ANNA MAY WONG

9-2639-12

WASH TIMES

MAR 24 1937

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GBB:JV

April 1, 1937

RECORDED

9-2639 -2

Mr. J. R. Hanson,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
903 Pacific Commerce Building,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
MRS. DAVID SKELZNICK - Victim;  
ANNA MAY WONG - Victim;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of March 25, 1937, transmitting one original two-page extortion letter and accompanying envelope postmarked "8, Los Angeles, Calif., Arcade Annex, Mar. 22, 1937, 1 P. M.", various handwriting specimens, the fingerprints of Arthur M. Foote, a suspect, and the fingerprints of [redacted]

[redacted] for elimination purposes in connection with the above-entitled case, your file #9-99.

The extortion letter and envelope have been examined and seven latent fingerprints of value were developed, three on the first page of the letter, two on the second page of the letter and two on the outside of the envelope. All of these latent impressions have been eliminated as having been made by the fingers of [redacted] and [redacted]

A search of the fingerprints of Arthur M. Foote through the main fingerprint files of the Bureau has disclosed no prior criminal record for this individual. For your confidential information a prior record has been found for [redacted]. This record is as follows:

[redacted]

APR - 1 1937  
This letter is in confirmation of the Bureau's wire of March 27, 1937.

P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY

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b7C

1937/4/1  
3:55 PM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 15406  
2921

Laboratory Report

Case: Unknown Subjects;  
Mrs. David Selznick - Victim;  
Anna May Wong - Victim;  
Extortion.

Number: 9-2637 2

- Specimens: 9-2637
- Q1 1 page of extortion letter which begins  
"Mrs. David Selznick, [redacted]  
[redacted] Dear Madam: Unless you, you in person..."
  - Q2 1 page (second page of letter) of extortion  
letter which reads: "pleading role the part..."
  - Q3 Envelope addressed to Mrs. David Selznick,  
[redacted] and postmarked

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Examination requested by: Los Angeles (3/25/37)

Date received: 3/27/37 10 P.M. ET (3-29-37 9:00 A.M. chp)

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by: [redacted]

Examination

"3 Los Angeles, Calif., Aracoe Annex, March 28,  
1937, 2 P. M."

- K1 9 sheets of paper with the handwriting of A. H. Foote.
- K2 9 sheets of paper with the handwriting of [redacted]
- K3 1 page handwriting specimen of [redacted]
- K4 1 page handwriting specimen of [redacted]
- K5 1 page handwriting specimen of [redacted]
- K6 1 page handwriting specimen of [redacted]

Fingerprint card of Arthur H. Foote, subject

The following fingerprints are submitted for  
elimination purposes:

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EXPEDITE

ORALLY ADVISED.

SPECIAL DELIVERY - AIR MAIL

3-27-37-Intents - 300 Q1

Intend. # 2 of [redacted]

2 intent # 1 & 16 of [redacted]

2 s. 02

Intend. # 1 & 2 of [redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Date 3/27 193

FROM: Technical Laboratory

TO: Single Fingerprint Section

Case Number: 9-2639

No latent fingerprints developed \_\_\_\_\_

Iodine prints developed on \_\_\_\_\_

Silver nitrate prints on all (P)

\_\_\_\_ Identiscope negatives attached hereto.

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

E. P. Coffey

By: [Signature]  
Examiner.



Los Angeles, California  
March 28, 1937

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

MARCH 28, 1937

[redacted] to whom the letter was delivered  
Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
[redacted] MRS. DAVID SERENICE - VICTIM;  
[redacted] SARA MAY WONG - VICTIM;  
[redacted] Extortion

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b7C

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled case, there is attached hereto the original extortion letter received by MRS. DAVID SERENICE, together with the envelope in which it was mailed. It will be noted that the envelope is postmarked, "Los Angeles, California, March 25, 1937, 1.00 PM, Arcade Annex."

There are also attached hereto three typewritten copies of the extortion letter in question.

[redacted] The Bureau will also find attached to this letter specimens of the handwriting of DR. A. M. ROOTE of the Valdemar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, California, who is mentioned in the extortion letter as the person to whom the money should be paid. The fingerprints of DR. ROOTE, as well as the fingerprints of the following individuals who handled this letter, are also attached:

[redacted] Detective, Hollywood Station, 15 22.  
[redacted] Los Angeles Police Department, 15 22.  
[redacted] Radio Policeman, Los Angeles  
[redacted] Police Department

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[redacted] Radio Policeman, Los Angeles  
[redacted] Police Department  
[redacted] Reporter, Los Angeles Times

Ans  
4-1-37  
BES (Jm)

7-2639-2

Director

March 25, 1937

With reference to Bureau telegram of March 25, 1937, suggesting that possibly [redacted] subject in an extortion case involving CECIL B. DEMILLE, might be a suspect in this case, it might be mentioned that this fact immediately occurred to the Los Angeles division upon receipt of the complaint in the instant case, but, after making a comparison of the handwriting of [redacted] it was not believed that he had written the extortion letters in the instant case.

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However, for the information of the Bureau, there is attached hereto a specimen of the handwriting of [redacted] in order that a comparison may be made by the handwriting examiners.

For the further information of the Bureau, the letter received by ANNA MAY WONG, which was delivered to the investigators of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, is written in the same handwriting as is the SELWICK letter, and it also will be obtained and forwarded to the Bureau in due time. It might be mentioned that, in connection with the WONG letter, it has been handled by numerous persons, and it is not believed that the possibilities of finding any latent fingerprints are destroyed.

Very truly yours,

J. H. HANCOCK,  
Special Agent in Charge.

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b7C

JHM:CMH  
2-175  
Encl.  
cc-L.A. 9-99  
(5 to Bureau:  
1 Tech. Lab.  
2 SELWICK  
[redacted])

AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California

March 25, 1937

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - VICTIM;  
ANNA MAY WONG - VICTIM.  
Extortion

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled case, there is attached hereto the original extortion letter received by MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, together with the envelope in which it was mailed. It will be noted that the envelope is postmarked, "Los Angeles, California, March 22, 1937, 1.00 PM, Arcade Annex."

There are also attached hereto three type-written copies of the extortion letter in question.

The Bureau will also find attached to this letter specimens of the handwriting of DR. A. M. FOOTE of the Valdemar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, California, who is mentioned in the extortion letter as the person to whom the money should be paid. The fingerprints of DR. FOOTE, as well as the fingerprints of the following individuals who handled this letter, are also attached:

[Redacted] Detective, Hollywood Station,  
Los Angeles Police Department

[Redacted] Radio Policeman, Los Angeles  
Police Department

RECORDED & INDEXED

[Redacted] Radio Policeman, Los Angeles  
Police Department

[Redacted] Reporter, Los Angeles TIMES

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Dwyer  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

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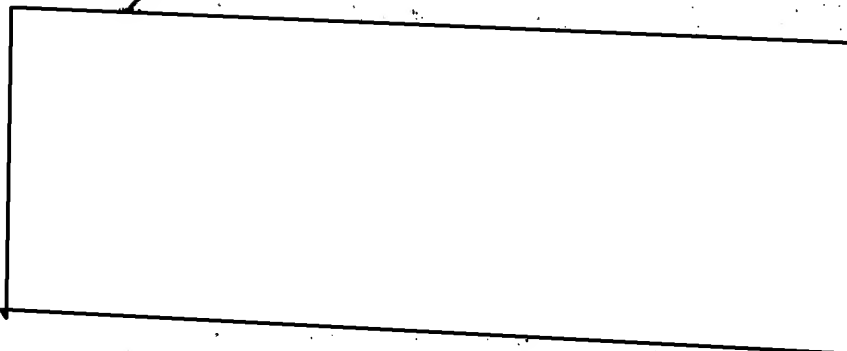
9-2639-2

APR 6 1937  
FBI - LOS ANGELES  
RECEIVED  
MAR 27 1937



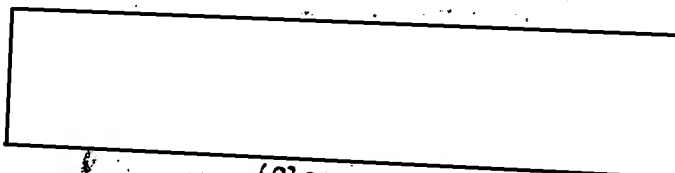
Director

March 25, 1937



Specimens of the handwriting of the following persons are also attached hereto:

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(Close personal friend of A. M. FOOTE)

It is requested that the Technical Laboratory make an appropriate study of the attached extortion letter, endeavoring to develop any latent fingerprints found on it, using the fingerprint cards that are enclosed herewith for elimination purposes, as well as for making an effort to determine if DR. FOOTE might have handled this letter. To the knowledge of the Agents, he has not handled it, but if he is responsible for the writing of it, his fingerprints may be found thereon.

It is also requested that appropriate handwriting comparisons be made between the specimens that are attached hereto and the extortion letter to determine if any of the individuals who furnished the specimens might have written the instant extortion letter.

Director

March 25, 1937

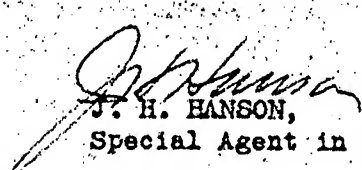
With reference to Bureau telegram of March 25, 1937, suggesting that possibly [redacted] Subject in an extortion case involving CECIL B. DEMILLE, might be a suspect in this case, it might be mentioned that this fact immediately occurred to the Los Angeles division upon receipt of the complaint in the instant case, but, after making a comparison of the handwriting of [redacted] it was not believed that he had written the extortion letters in the instant case.

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b7C


However, for the information of the Bureau, there is attached hereto a specimen of the handwriting of [redacted] in order that a comparison may be made by the handwriting examiners.

For the further information of the Bureau, the letter received by ANNA MAY WONG, which was delivered to the investigators of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, is written in the same handwriting as is the SELZNICK letter, and it also will be obtained and forwarded to the Bureau in due time. It might be mentioned that, in connection with the WONG letter, it has been handled by numerous persons, and it is now believed that the possibilities of finding any latent fingerprints are destroyed.

Very truly yours,

  
J. H. HANSON,  
Special Agent in Charge.

JHH:GMH  
9-175  
Encl.  
cc-L.A. 9-99  
(5 to Bureau:  
1 Tech. Lab.  
2 SELZNICK  
2 [redacted])

 AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY

b6  
b7C

Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Starnes  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Telford  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

TELETYPE

DECODED COPY

FBI LOS ANGELES

3-25-37

6-15 PM EL

DIRECTOR

PHONE. UNSUB, MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, VICTIM, ANNA MAY WONG, VICTIM,  
EXTORTION. AIMEE SIMPLE MCPHERSON TODAY RECEIVED LETTER POSTMARKED  
LOS ANGELES MARCH TWENTY FOURTH FOUR P M LETTER SIGNED DR A MAFOTE  
IN WHICH WRITER CLAIMS THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN RELEASED FROM CUSTODY  
HAVING CONVINCED POLICE OFFICERS HE HAD NO PART IN WRITING LETTERS  
TO VICTIMS. WRITER MADE NO DEMAND NOR THREAT EXCEPT ASKED  
MCPHERSON TO COME TO HIS ROOM AT THREE THIRTY AM AS HAD ROLE FOR  
HER IN MOVIES. ALSO MENTIONS SELZNICK WILL PRODUCE HIS PLAY  
AND HIS CHILD WILL BE RETURNED UNHARMED. THE WRITER ALSO MENTIONED  
THAT DR MCCOY HAD IMPORTANT WORK TO DO. SELZNICK CHILD OF COURSE  
HAS NOT BEEN KIDNAPED

RECORDED  
HANSON  
INDEXED

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DCGLS

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 9-2639-3                    |      |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE |      |
| TAMM                        | FILE |



OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mar. 25, 1937

Re: Anna Mae Wong  
Extortion case, Los Angeles.

Mr. Tamm recalls a similar case  
over a year ago. He is checking to locate  
this case and advise Los Angeles of possibility  
of subject being the same.

st

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-7639-4

MAR 27 1937

TOLESON

TAMM

ONE

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Dawsey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
.....  
.....  
.....

b6  
b7C

## Notes Threaten Film Actress, David Selznick

\$20,000 Demanded by  
'Movie Maniac,' Mutilation  
of Miss Wong Feared

By the Associated Press

Hollywood, Calif., March 24.—  
Weird, confused messages, threaten-  
ing death and mutilation, brought  
police guards today to the homes  
of Anna May Wong, willowy  
Chinese screen star, and David O.  
Selznick, film producer, and set  
Federal agents to work.

The writer is a "movie maniac,"  
said Capt. Clyde Plummer, chief  
county investigator.

The letters showed a distorted  
mind, wildly fascinated by the mo-  
tion picture industry. They told of  
a scenario, asked, later, sums of  
money, described a proposed cast,  
and confidently announced that  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, largest film  
studio, would produce it.

They were bristling with refer-  
ence to biblical characters. They  
contradicted themselves. They men-  
tioned Evangelist Aimee Semple  
McPherson, who has been under  
guard since she received a threat-  
ening note last Sunday.

And the writer boasted it was he  
who ambushed District Attorney  
Buron Fitts, two weeks ago, wound-  
ing him in the arm.

The shooting of Fitts, one letter  
said, was only a sample of the writ-  
er's self-esteemed capacities, which  
could, if necessary, "cause me to ex-  
cell all human fendishness in plans  
much beyond what I have hinted."

The writer added that "no police  
are a match for me, physically or  
mentally."

Neither Selznick nor Miss Wong  
was available for comment. They  
were believed to be under police  
protection at unannounced places.

### Doctor Receives Letter

A curious factor in the case was  
that the letters to the actress and  
the producer were signed by a Dr.  
A. M. Foote, and directed the re-  
cipients to send the money de-  
manded—\$20,000 from each—to his  
office.

At the same time a Los Angeles  
chiropractor, Dr. E. J. Foote, also  
received a letter, written, police ex-  
perts said, by the same person, on  
the same type of paper. The mes-  
sage to Dr. Foote told him he was  
to take the money from Miss Wong  
and Selznick, that he had been  
chosen to play the role of Jesus  
Christ in the movie, and that harm  
would come to him if he did not  
comply.

The signature on his note was  
"The Gang."

Capt. Plummer said he was con-  
vinced Dr. Foote had not written  
any of the letters, but was a third  
victim in the case. The police of-  
ficer said he also believed the note  
sent last Sunday to Aimee Semple  
McPherson may have been written  
by the same man.

### Injury Threatened

To Anna May Wong, the would-  
be extortioner wrote:

"Unless you come down to my  
room immediately with \$20,000, you  
will be disfigured and your father  
crippled and others close to you  
will be injured. First call my  
number and ask for me, Dr. Foote."

You may think a doctor writing  
such a letter is crazy or under the  
influence of narcotics, but I have  
narcotics under full control and I  
have the courage to sign my name.

You do not need to lose the  
\$20,000. It is a mere guarantee of  
co-operation to the fullest extent on  
your part.

I am going to induce Metro-  
Goldwyn-Mayer to have us in the  
same pictures. When this is carried  
out the money will be returned.  
Aimee Semple McPherson and Dr.  
McCoy will be in the picture.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Darnley .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

WASH. POST

MAR 25 1937

9-2639-4

b6  
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 18514

LABORATORY

~~Document~~ Report

Case: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Victim;  
Anna May Wong, Victim - Extortion.

Number: 9-2639-5

Specimens: 9-2639-5 Q4 1 page letter beginning "My dear Aimee:  
I have just been released..."  
Q5 1 envelope addressed to Aimee Semple  
McPherson, Angelus Temple, City, and  
postmarked "9 Los Angeles, Calif.,  
Mar. 24, 1937, 4 P. M., Arcade Annex."

The following fingerprint cards for  
elimination:

Examination requested by: Los Angeles (3/26/37)

b6  
b7C

Date received: 3/30/37 MT 10:15 a.m.

Examination requested: Fingerprint - Document

Result of examination:

Examination by:

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Q4 Handwritten in ink on piece of linen finish  
paper torn from a pad at the top. No watermark

8.00 x 10.07 x .0036 x wgt 4.085g Subst 22  
Gum P.

Q5 Plain Linen finish envelope - no watermark  
7.15-19X 3.90 x .0042 wgt 4.456g

Green print developed

Handwritten, Street with Q1, 2, 5.

4/1/37 4/7/37  
W.H.G.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California  
March 26, 1937

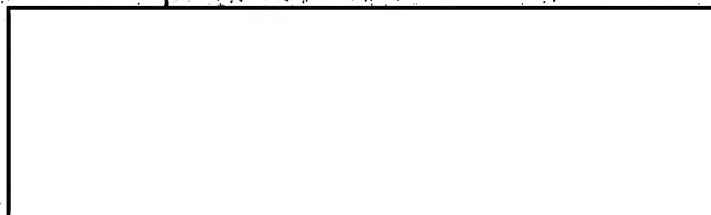
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Victim;  
Anna May Wong, Victim.  
EXTORTION  
L. A. File 9-175

In connection with the above entitled case, there is attached hereto the original of a letter received by ALICE SEAPLA McPHERSON, together with the envelope in which it was mailed. It will be noted that the envelope is postmarked "Los Angeles, California, March 24, 1937 4 PM, Arcade Annex". It will also be noted that the letter bears the signature of Dr. A. M. Foote, Valdemar Hotel, 606 S. Hope St., L. A., and is similar to the letters sent to Mrs. David Selznick and Anna May Wong.

The Bureau will also find attached to this letter the fingerprints of the following individuals who handled this letter:



The enclosed letter was delivered to Special Agent [redacted] by Detectives in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, who advised that the three above mentioned individuals were the only ones who handled the document; however, in the opinion of the writer, others also handled the letter.

It is requested that the Technical Laboratory make an appropriate study of the attached letter, endeavoring to de-

RECORDED  
INDEXED

9-2639-5  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 29 1937  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
ON file

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 9-2407-6

b6  
b7C

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory

UNIT THREE COPY TO INVEST UNIT  
ORIGINAL TO LABORATORY

FINGERPRINTS ATTACHED IN L. A. FILE

CYB 3/30/37

*[Handwritten signature]*

3-30-37

Director

-2-

3-26-37

velop any latent fingerprints found on it, using the fingerprint cards which are enclosed for elimination purposes.

A photostatic copy of the enclosed letter is being retained in the Los Angeles file.

Very truly yours,

MMH:AB

J. H. HANSON  
Special Agent in Charge

Encls.

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

9 - 2639-5  
Enclosure Retained



Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Houghman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

DECODED COPY  
MAR 26 1937

W2 55 NL GOVT COLLECT VIA MACKAY RADIO

BY LOS ANGELES CALIF MAR 25 1937

DIR FBI

WASH DC

UNSUB MRS DAVID SELZNICK ET AL VIKEX LA PD ARRESTED TONIGHT MRS LYDIA SWENSON

GLENDAL CALIFORNIA CHARGE ATTEMPT EXTORTION TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS FROM ALICE SIMPLE

MCPHERSON STOP LETTER APPARENTLY HAS NO CONNECTION INSTANT CASE STOP CANNOT

ASCERTAIN UNTIL TOMORROW IF SWENSON LETTER VIOLATION OUR JURISDICTION IF SO

POSSIBLE FEDERAL PROSECUTION ALTHOUGH SWENSON WOMAN POSSIBLY INSANE

HANSON

612AM MAR26...

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-2639-6  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 26 1937 - P.M.  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
HMM

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 9-2647-1

9-2639

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. MARCH 27 1937 RCB:FL

CODE UNDEVELOPED  
WORKS.

Transmit the following message to: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE,  
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA.

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS MRS. DAVID SELZNICK ETAL VICTIM EXTORTION. ENVELOPE  
CONTAINS WATERMARK QUOTE LONG BALTIMORE LINEN UNQUOTE SOLD BY UNITED  
DRUG COMPANY. NO WATERMARK IN PAPER. NO CONCLUSION REACHED RESPECTING  
HANDWRITING A. E. FOOTE. DESIRE NUMEROUS ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS DICTATING  
WORDING OF EXTORTION LETTER. NO REASON TO SUSPECT OTHER INDIVIDUALS  
WHOSE HANDWRITING SUBMITTED. FINGERPRINT REPORT FOLLOWS.

ROOVER

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Cowley .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schoder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-2639-7

MAR 29 1937

POSTAL

SENT VIA

M

Per

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn b6  
Mr. Tamm b7C

## POSTAL

MAR 25 1937

DECODED COPY

WL7 37/29 COLLECT GOVT

FN LOSANGELES CALIF 25 208P

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUR OF INV. WASHINGTON, DC

UNSUB MRS DAVID SELZNICK VIKEX CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY LOCAL PRESS  
RE DOCTOR CECIL E REYNOLDS AS POSSIBLE SUSPECT THIS CASE PRESENT  
INDICATIONS HOWEVER ARE HE HAD NO CONNECTION THEREWITH

HANSON

Copy to Mr. Tamm

**RECORDED**

9-2639-8

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 29 1937

# THE STATE OF ARIZONA

1-10-68

FILE



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
-----

621025

TO: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

March 27, 1937

Transmit the following message to:

SAC LOS ANGELES

YOUR LETTER TWENTY FIFTH INSTANT RE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS MRS. DAVID

RELATION VICTIM ANNA MAY WOOD VICTIM EXTORTION. SEVEN LATENT

FINGERPRINTS FOUND ON SPECIMENS SUBMITTED. ALL ELIMINATED AS

HAVING BEEN MADE BY [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

HOOVER

b6  
b7C

COM UNDERLINED WORDS

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-2639-9  
MAR 29 1937 P.M.

SENT VIA

POSTAL

Per

EPC:ERG

RECORDED

9-2639 *10*

April 14, 1937

-10

Mr. J. H. Hanson,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
903 Pacific Commerce Building,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Anna May Wong -  
Victims; Extortion.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Laboratory Report #15514 and #15542,  
dated April 7, 1937, in connection with the above-  
entitled matter, a copy of which was forwarded to your  
office.

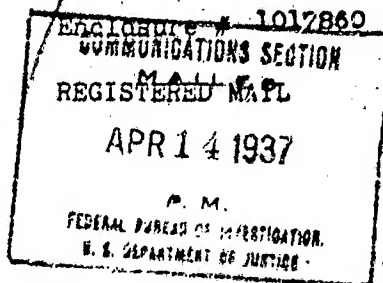
There are being transmitted herewith the following  
specimens, appropriate copies of the same having been  
made for the completion of the Bureau's files.

#9-2639-10: KB

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



*EPC for RM*

*Wep*

EPC:ON

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED 9-2639-10

March 31, 1937.

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

SAC LOS ANGELES

Transmit the following message to:

FINGERPRINTS DR CECIL EDWARD REYNOLDS NOT RECEIVED YOUR LETTER  
MARCH TWENTY FIFTH AS DESCRIBED.

HOOVER

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

SENT VIA

POSTAL

1130A

Per

B



POSTAL

BI 3 3 31 37 1130 -.AM GOVT VIA MRT  
J H HANSON FBI JUSTICE 903 PACIFIC COMMERCE BLDG  
LOS AG XXXXX ANGELES CALIFORNIA  
FINGERPRINTS DR CECIL EDWARD REYNOLDS NOT RECEIVED YOUR LETTER  
MARCH TWENTY FIFTH AS DESCRIBED

HOOVER

BI S 3  
R8XXX R3W

CLEAR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Los Angeles, California  
March 25, 1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
Mrs. David Selznick, Victim  
Anna May Wong, Victim  
EXTORTION

Dear Sir: L. A. File #9-175

Reference is made to letter of even date addressed to the Bureau by this field division with which communication the original extortion letter received by Mrs. David Selznick was forwarded to the Bureau, as were specimens of handwriting and fingerprint cards.

For further comparison, there are enclosed herewith handwriting specimens of Dr. CECIL E. REYNOLDS, physician and surgeon, 1214 Tyler Street, Glendale, California, which specimens consist of handwriting furnished by Dr. Reynolds on two sheets of yellow paper, the specimens having been taken by Special Agent (A) [redacted] who advises that the material written by Reynolds was dictated to him slowly but that Dr. Reynolds wrote without any hesitation whatsoever, he being a rapid writer.

It might be mentioned that, with respect to Dr. Reynolds, he was suggested as a suspect by Mr. David Selznick, the husband of victim Selznick, due to the fact that the head of the Research Department at the Selznick International Pictures, Inc., informed Mr. Selznick that the doctor had been retained as a technical advisor on one occasion by the studio and that during that contact with him it was observed that he acted queerly, being suspected of using narcotics. [redacted]

[redacted] of the Research Department at Selznick studio, also advised that Dr. Reynolds was "money hungry"; further, that he had ambitions not only to be an actor but also a playwright. To her knowledge, the doctor has never written any stories pertaining to Jesus.

It might also be mentioned that Mr. Selznick has learned from Anna May Wong that Dr. Reynolds is acquainted with her and that at one time he rendered professional services to her. It might also be mentioned that both Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Foote deny that they have ever heard or know of each other.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-2639-10

MAR 30 1937

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy

b6  
b7C

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory

Director

-2-

3/25/37

The fingerprints of Dr. Cecil Edward Reynolds are also attached hereto for elimination purposes.

There is also attached hereto a photographic copy of the extortion letter received by Anna May Wong, which it will be noted was postmarked at Los Angeles, California, on March 22, 1937, at the Arcade Annex; also, a photographic copy of the letter received by Dr. A. M. Foote at the Valdemar Hotel, 606 S. Hope Street, Los Angeles, which letter was postmarked in Los Angeles on March 22, 1937, having been mailed at the Arcade Annex. These photographic copies are being forwarded to the Bureau for its information and for the purpose of determining if the letters were written by the same individual who wrote to Mrs. David Selznick.

While at the Selznick studio, Mr. David Selznick furnished to the writer two photographs of Dr. Cecil Edward Reynolds, which are attached hereto and on the reverse side of these photographs is some handwriting which was written by Dr. Reynolds, this being forwarded to assist the handwriting examiners in determining if Reynolds wrote the notes in question. These photographs should be returned to the Los Angeles division after they have served their purpose at the Bureau. It might be stated that additional photographs, with similar handwriting on the reverse side, are available through Mr. Selznick. In addition to the specimens appearing on the photographs attached hereto, there is enclosed a typewritten memorandum concerning the activities of Cecil Reynolds and on the front cover of this is some writing in ink, which is reported to have been written by Dr. Reynolds. Pencil notations by him also appear on Page 16 of this memorandum.

For the further information of the Bureau, there are attached hereto in triplicate copies of the letters addressed to Anna May Wong and Dr. A. M. Foote, which letters are referred to above.

Today, [redacted] to L. B. Mayer of the M. G. M. Studios, telephonically contacted me requesting that I get in touch with [redacted] of that studio for the purpose of visiting with [redacted] who had indicated that she had received letters of a nature similar to the ones received by Mrs. Selznick and Anna May Wong; consequently, along with [redacted] and [redacted] Police at the M. G. M. Studio, I called at the residence of [redacted] at Santa Monica, California, where it was learned from [redacted] that over a period of the last year she has received letters from an individual who has signed the name of Jesus Christ to them. [redacted] stated that she paid but little attention to the letters, assuming that they were from some religious fanatic. She said, however, that her recollection of the handwriting of the letters was that it was apparently identical with the

b6  
b7C



Director

-3-

3/25/37

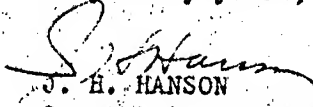
letter received by Miss Wong, a copy of which was published in the Los Angeles papers today. [ ] said that for this reason she reported the matter to appropriate officials at the M. G. M. Studio. She said, however, that she had destroyed these letters. Arrangements were made with [ ] for her to instruct her secretary to hereafter save all "crank" letters and especially to be on the lookout for any letters making reference to religion.

b6  
b7C

While visiting with [ ] she mentioned that she had received on March 23, 1937, an anonymous communication which made certain personal references to [ ] Irving Thalberg, as well as to Mr. Louis B. Mayer, adding that this letter did not contain any threats or extortion demands but it was obviously a letter written by a crank of some kind. Because of the contents of the letter [ ] stated that she did not wish to show it to anyone but she gave to the writer the envelope in which this communication was received and it is attached hereto. It is suggested that the Bureau make a comparison to determine if the writer of this particular letter is identical with the writer of the letters in the instant case.

In the previous letter from the Los Angeles division to the Bureau today no request was made for a study in the laboratory to determine, if possible, the type of paper on which the original extortion letter to Mrs. David Selznick was written, as well as the envelope, and any information that the Bureau can furnish in this respect would be appreciated, in order that an effort could be made to trace it.

Very truly yours,

  
J. H. HANSON

Special Agent in Charge

JHH/EL

Encls.

Air Mail

Special Delivery

lp  
Int.

C O P Y

Dr A. M Foote:

A sum of ransome money will be placed in your hands by the following persons or a representative of theirs, Selznicks, Anna May Wong or Dr. McCoy You will take good care of this money until we contact you and obtain it from you.

Now you say nothing to any body in this hotel but you wait until you are cabled and you make arrangements to get this paid you in your room.

Now so far there no news out and everything goes all right if you carry out your part. This is money for the son of David Selznick.

Now how do we pick you well we know that one of the studio scouts has picked you out to play the part of Jesus you may notice if your not to modest that you are the direct counterpart of Jesus. Just look at yourself in the glass and visualize yourself in the beard and robes of Jesus. Well they are contemplating using you and Aimee McPherson is to play a part and Dr. McCoy is too. Thats why the gang picked you out as these people know you see

The Gang

C O P Y

Los Angeles, Mar 24, 1937

Dear Anna:

Unless you come down to my room immediately with \$20,000 you will be disfigured and your father will be crippled and others close to you will be injured. First call my number Trinity 6931 and ask for me Dr. A M Foote. The address is Valdemar hotel 606 S. Hope St.

You may think a doctor writing such a letter is crazy or under the influence of narcotics but I have narcotics in full control and I have the courage to sign my name.

You do not need to lose the \$20,000 it is a mere guarantee of co-operation to the fullest extent on your part.

I going to induce Metro-Goldwyn Myer to have us in the same picture when this carried out the money will be returned. Aimee Semple McPherson and Dr. McCoy will be in the picture. I will play the part of Jesus as I look just like him.

Be sure you call the right number now and dont try to call the police as you will only cause a terrible toll in lives.

I do not intend to be a fugitive and if you folks are sensible you will be safe I will not hold you responsible for what others do I will destroy people connected with you if you are to blame

I know you have the money and I will immediately set to strike if you try any tricks. No police are a match for me physically or mentally and while I have a kindly disposition my very kindness in my ultimate purpose will cause me to excel all human fiendishness in plans much beyond what I have even hinted.

I can easy get cars in the garage of the millionaires club and no one even knows they have been used. I can strike quick like I did to Byron Fitts when he took a warning from me as other warnings. Had I desired to kill him I could have done so I added to his injuries look at him thats you if you do not comply.

Assure me by phone immediately and come to my room at once or I strike.

A. M Foote M.D.  
606 So Hope St.  
L. A

Trinity 6931



\$20,000.  
for Jesus

Quest. This out money be L no ident

known This out money be L  
K7 for Jesus

\$20000

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Downey  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan

DECODED COPY

POSTAL

MAR 26 1937

W19 22/19 COLLECT

FM LOS ANGELES CALIF. 26 1203 P

DIRECTOR

FBI US DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHN DC

INSUR MRS DAVID SELZNICK ETAL VIKEY RETEL LAST NIGT CONCERNING LETTER  
WRITTEN BY SWENSON WOMAN NO VIOLATION OUR JURISDICTION.

HANSON

329P

Copy to Mr. Tamm

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-2639-11

MAR 27 1937

FILE

TCM:VM

March 30, 1937.

RECORDED

9-2639-12

Mr. J. E. Hanson,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
903 Pacific Commerce Building,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Mrs. David Salnick - Victim;  
Anna May Wong - Victim;  
Extortion.

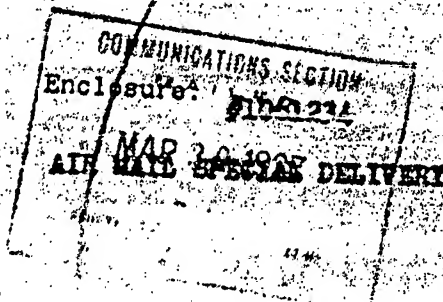
Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau March 27, 1937.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



RECEIVED



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

15466

WGB:ME

Laboratory Report

Case: Unknown Subjects;  
Mrs. David Balsnick - Victim;  
Anna May Wong - Victim;  
Extortion.  
Specimens: March 30, 1937. Number: 9-2639

See attached sheet

Examination requested by: Los Angeles  
Date received: 3-27-37  
Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint  
Result of examination: Examination by: [redacted]

b6  
b7C

This report is in confirmation of the Bureau's wire of  
March 27, 1937.

The original extortion letter, designated as specimens Q1 and Q2, is written in ink on pieces of white linen finish paper containing no watermark. The paper measures 8x10" in size and has a substance number from twenty to twenty-two. The letter was enclosed in a plain white linen finish envelope containing the watermark "Lord Baltimore Linen", which is sold by the United Drug Company, whose main offices are at Greenleaf, Leon and Forsyth Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The envelope measures 5.38x3.40".

RECORDED & INDEXED

Based on a comparison of the handwriting contained on the anonymous letter with the known handwriting specimens submitted, no conclusion has been reached with respect to the handwriting of A. W. Foote, and it is suggested that numerous additional specimens of the handwriting of this individual be obtained and forwarded for further comparison with the anonymous letter. Further, it is not believed that any of the other individuals whose handwriting was submitted, wrote the anonymous letter.

A report on the fingerprint examination will be submitted separately.

A photographic copy of the anonymous letter will be placed in the anonymous letter file in the Laboratory, at which time it will be compared with the handwriting on the other letters therein, and if any identification is made, you will be further advised.

Page 2,  
Laboratory Report #15466,  
March 30, 1937.

Photographic copies of the evidence submitted will be forwarded to your office within the next several days.

THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IS BEING RETAINED IN THE LABORATORY FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS WHICH MAY BE DESIRED. SHOULD YOUR OFFICE DESIRE THIS ORIGINAL EVIDENCE FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS WHICH MAY DEVELOP THE BUREAU SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN AMPLE TIME TO PERMIT TRANSMITTAL.

Specimens:

- 9-2639 Q1. One page of extortion letter which begins: "Mrs. David Selznick, 744 N. Alta Vista Blvd., City Dear Madam: Unless you, you in person—".
- Q2. One page (second page of letter) of extortion letter which reads: "leading role the part—".
- Q3. Envelope addressed to "Mrs. David Selznick, [redacted] and postmarked, "C, Los Angeles, California, Arcade Annex, March 22, 1937, 1 P. M.".
- K1. Seven sheets of paper with the handwriting of A. H. Foote.
- K2. Eight sheets of paper with the handwriting of [redacted]
- K3. One-page handwriting specimen of [redacted]
- K4. One-page handwriting specimen of [redacted]
- K5. One-page handwriting specimen of [redacted]
- K6. One-page handwriting specimen of E. H. Bayres.  
Fingerprint card of Arthur H. Foote.  
Fingerprints of the following for elimination:
- [redacted]

b6  
b7C

1-Bureau  
2-Los Angeles  
1-Laboratory

GES:JM

April 9, 1937

9-2639 -13

RECORDED

Mr. J. H. Hanson,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
903 Pacific Commerce Building,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, et al. -  
Victims;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of March 26, 1937, transmitting one original letter and accompanying envelope postmarked "Los Angeles, Calif., 9, Arcade Annex, Mar. 24, 1937, 4 P. M." and the fingerprint cards of [redacted] and [redacted] for elimination purposes in connection with the above-entitled case. Reference is also made to your letter of April 1, 1937, transmitting the fingerprints of Dr. Cecil Edward Reynolds for comparison purposes in connection with this case.

The letter and envelope have been examined and a total of five latent fingerprints has been found, three on the letter and two on the outside of the envelope. These five latent fingerprints have been compared with the fingerprints of the above-named individuals and the three latent prints appearing on the letter and one on the outside of the envelope have been identified as having been made by the fingers of [redacted]. The other latent fingerprint on the outside of the envelope remains unidentified.

b6  
b7C

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED

APR - 9 1937

AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten notes and stamps]*  
APR 10 1937  
FBI - LOS ANGELES  
APR 10 1937  
FBI - LOS ANGELES



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 10014  
2260

LABORATORY  
Single Fingerprint Report

Case: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Salzman, Victim;  
Anna May Wong, Victim - Extortion.

Number: 9-2637-2

Specimens: 9-2637-2 Q6 1 page letter beginning "My dear Alton:  
I have just been released...."  
Q5 1 envelope addressed to Alton Seppie  
Hoffman, Angeles Temple, City, and  
postmarked "9 Los Angeles, Calif.,  
Mar. 24, 1937, 4 P. M., Arcade Amer."

The following fingerprint cards for  
elimination:

Examination requested by: Los Angeles (2/24/37)

Date received: 2/20/37 10:18 a.m. (3-30-37 1:00 P.M. chp)

Examination requested: Fingerprint - Document

Result of examination:

Examination by:

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

3-30-37 - Prints to recording + Tech  
4-1-37 - Received prints to be recorded  
4-1-37 - Sent for file  
4-5-37 - Sent for file  
4-7-37 - Sent for file  
4-8-37 - Received file

Received evidence from Lab  
Faintly developed

Ans  
4-9-37

2 on Q4

2 on Q5 (outside)

3 on Q4 and 1 on Q5 identified as  
having been made by finger 4

b6  
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 3059

Single Fingerprint Report

Case: Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK,  
ET AL - VICTIMS.  
Extortion.

Number: 9-2639-13

Specimens:

Submitted the fingerprint card of Dr. Cecil Edward  
Reynolds for elimination purposes.

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Date received: chp 4-5-37 10:00 A.M.

Examination requested: Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by:

b6  
b7C

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

*4-5-37 - Print to recording*

*Print for file*

*Received prints from recording*

*To file for March*

*4-7-37 - Print for file*

*4-8-37 - Received file*

*Compared prints of Reynolds*

*4-9-37*

Los Angeles, California  
April 1, 1937

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK,  
ET AL - VICTIMS.  
Extortion

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of Bureau telegram dated March 31, 1937, in which this division is advised that the fingerprints of DR. CECIL EDWARD REYNOLDS were not received with the letter from this division dated March 25, 1937.

A duplicate fingerprint card of DR. REYNOLDS is available and is being transmitted herewith for elimination purposes.

Very truly yours,

MEM:GMB  
9-178  
Encl.

J. H. HANSON,  
Special Agent in Charge.

AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY

9-2637-13



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

Los Angeles, California  
April 1, 1937

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
MRS. DAVID GELZNICK,  
ET AL - VICTIMS.  
Extortion

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of Bureau  
telegram dated March 31, 1937, in which this division  
is advised that the fingerprints of DR. CECIL EDWARD  
REYNOLDS were not received with the letter from this  
division dated March 25, 1937.

A duplicate fingerprint card of  
DR. REYNOLDS is available and is being transmitted  
herewith for elimination purposes.

Very truly yours,

MEM:GMH  
9-175  
Encl.

*J. H. Hanson*  
J. H. HANSON,  
Special Agent in Charge.

AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-2639-13  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
APR 5 1937  
ONE  
NEW

COPY AND REMAINING DETACHED IN S. F. P. B.

9-2639-13



b6  
b7C

POSTAL

APR - 3 1937

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Dwyer  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

W4 36 NL GOVT COLLECT VIA MRT

BY LOSANGELES CALIF 2

DIR FED BUR OF INV

WASHN DC

UNSUB MRS DAVID SELZNICK ET AL VIKEX LETTER POSTMARKED HERE  
RECEIVED BY VICTIM <sup>Anna Mae</sup> WONG TODAY WARNER SHE WAS NOT SAFE LETTER  
WRITTEN BY PIN MARKS NO EXTORTION DEMAND OR THREAT LETTER  
DELIVERED TO LOCAL DA

HANSON.

338A..

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

Copy to Mr. Tamm

9-2639-14  
APR 3 1937

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
Los Angeles, California  
April 5, 1937

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory

4-2-37M

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

b6  
b7C

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
Mrs. David O. Selznick, Vic.,  
Anna May Wong, Victim;  
EXTORTION  
L. A. File #9-175

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Bureau telegram of March 27, 1937, there are enclosed herein additional handwriting specimens of Dr. A. M. Foote, in the form of the full text of the extortion letter addressed to victim Mrs. David O. Selznick.

Dr. Foote, due to his delicate physical condition and advanced age, can write only about fifteen minutes between rest periods, and the writing of this document consumed approximately forty-five minutes. While he submitted these specimens willingly, nevertheless he commented on its uselessness, and it was felt by the Agent who obtained the specimens that Foote would refuse at this time if additional samples were requested.

Very truly yours,

J. H. HANSON  
Special Agent in Charge

MEM/EL  
Encl.

Via Air Mail

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| 9-2639-15        |      |
| APR 7 1937 A. M. |      |
| LAB              | FILE |

UNRECORDED COPY TO INVEST. UNIT  
ORIGINAL TO LABORATORY



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 15603

Laboratory Report

Case: Re: Unknown Subject; Mrs. David O.  
Selznick, Victim, Anna May Wong,  
Victim; Extortion.

Number: 9-2639-15

Specimens: 9-2639-15 K9 Four pages of handwriting specimens of  
Dr. A. M. Foote.

Examination requested by: Los Angeles (4/5/37)

Date received: 4/7/37 2:30 p.m. MT

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination:

No Ident

4/10 WSP

Examination by:  #1

b6  
b7C

AIR MAIL

Ans. 4-15-37  
HAB

Can you father for to like I John  
best quick

Q1 \$20,000 606 So Hope St Lth will be R

K9 \$20,000 606 So Hope St Lth will be  
father for to like I quick  
Can you best safe John  
you bet

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

EPC:ON  
9-2639

March 30, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE.

Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Mrs. David Selznick, et al.,  
Victims; Extortion.

As a result of his examination of specimens submitted by the Los Angeles Field Division in connection with the above-entitled case and received in the laboratory March 27, 1937, [ ] the #1 examiner, has been unable to reach a conclusion with respect to the handwriting of A. M. Foote and suggests that numerous additional specimens of the handwriting of this individual be obtained. He does not believe that any of the other individuals whose handwriting was submitted wrote the anonymous letter.

b6  
b7C

[ ] associate examiner, concurs in [ ] opinion.

[ ] associate examiner, reports that he is of the opinion A. M. Foote wrote the anonymous letter.

Accordingly, the more conservative opinion of [ ] has been furnished the Los Angeles Field Division.

E. P. Coffey.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-2639-16  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 7 1937

WGB:ERG

9-2639

April 6, 1937.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Mrs. David Selznick - Victim;  
Anna May Wong - Victim;  
Extortion.

Dear Sir:

With reference to Laboratory Report #15466, in connection with the  
above entitled case, there are transmitted herewith photographic copies of the  
following specimens which your office submitted for examination:

9-2639 Q1 through Q3

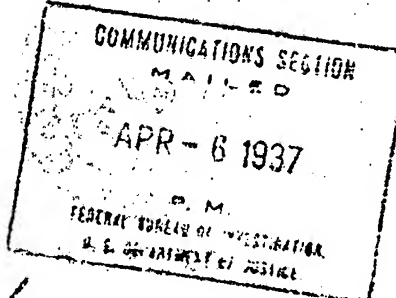
RECORDED

9-2639-17

APR 7 1937

RECEIVED

*2 pl for Mr*  
*EPK*  
*10885*



Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure # 1017705



WCB:anh

April 7, 1937.

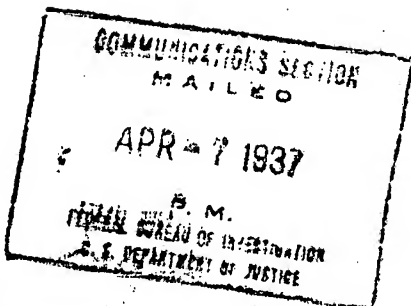
9-2639  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: Unknown Subject; Mrs. David Selznick,  
Anna May Wong - Victims; Extortion.

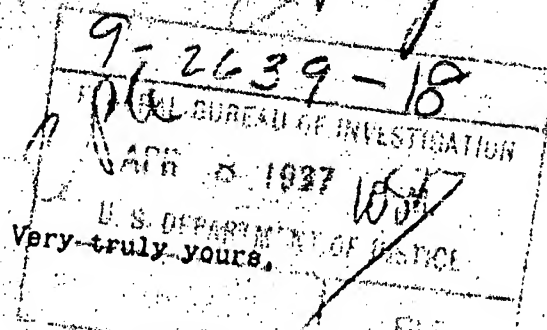
Dear Sir:

With reference to Laboratory Report # 15542  
above entitled case, there are transmitted herewith photographic copies of the  
following specimens which your office submitted for examination: # 15514

9-2639 - 5 Q-4 and Q-5



RECORDED



Enclosure # 1017538

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

WGB:EQ  
EPC:ON

April 7, 1937.

RECORDED 9-2639-19

Mr. J. H. Hanson,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
903 Pacific Commerce Building,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Anna May Wong -  
Victims; Extortion.

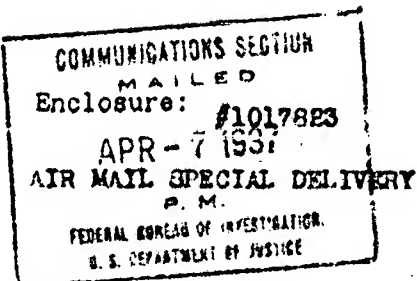
Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report  
covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office  
in connection with the above entitled matter and received in  
the Bureau March 30, 1937 and March 31, 1937.

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



*EDH*

*EPC*

*Not 2:50*

RECEIVED  
DIVISION ONE  
APR 10 1937

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

15814  
15847

EPC:ON:EG

Laboratory Report

Case: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Salznick, Anna May Wong.  
Victims; Extortion.

April 7, 1937.

Number:

9-2639-8  
9-2639-10

Specimens:

See attached page

Examination requested by:

Los Angeles

Date received:

March 30 and March 31, 1937

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by:

b6  
b7C

Redictated  
Coffey

The letter designated as specimen Q4 is handwritten in ink on a piece of white linen finish paper containing no watermark and measuring 8x10" in size. The paper has a substance number of 22 and appears to have been made up into a pad. The letter was enclosed in a plain white linen finish envelope containing no watermark and measuring approximately 7 1/8x4" in size.

The handwriting on this letter and envelope is believed to have been written by the same individual who wrote the letter addressed to Mrs. David Salznick and designated as specimens Q1, Q2 and Q3.

Specimens Q6, Q7 and Q8 which are photostatic copies of a letter to Anna May Wong, and specimens Q9 and Q10 which are photostatic copies of a letter and envelope addressed to Doctor A. H. Foote, are believed to be in the same handwriting as the letters designated as specimens Q1 through Q5.

Specimen Q11, which is an original envelope addressed to Miss Norma Shearer, is not believed to be in the same handwriting as the other questioned specimens submitted.

A comparison of the questioned writing has been made with the known writings of Doctor Cecil K. Reynolds as submitted, and it is the examiners' opinion that these writings are not identical.

RECORDED & INDEXED

9-2639-19

ONE



Page 2.

Laboratory Reports #15514 and #15542.

April 7, 1937.

A report on the fingerprint examination will be submitted separately.



Photographic copies of specimens Q4 and Q5 will be forwarded to your office within the next several days.

The original evidence is being retained in the Laboratory for use in any subsequent examinations which may be desired, with the exception of specimen KB which will be returned to your office as soon as photographic copies have been made for the completion of the Laboratory's files. Should your office desire the remainder of this original evidence for use in any subsequent proceedings which may develop the Bureau should be notified in ample time to permit transmittal.

- 1 - Bureau
- 2 - Los Angeles
- 1 - Laboratory

Page 3.  
Laboratory Reports #15514 and #15542  
April 7, 1937.

Specimens:

- 9-2639-5 Q4. One-page letter beginning "My dear Aimee:  
I have just been released\*\*".
- Q5. One envelope addressed to Aimee Sample McPherson  
and postmarked "8, Los Angeles, California, March  
24, 1937, 4 P. M., Arcade Annex".  
The following fingerprint cards for elimination:  
 
- 9-2639-10 Q6. Photostatic copy of first sheet of letter beginning  
"Unless you come\*\*".
- Q7. Photostatic copy of second sheet of above letter  
beginning "I know you\*\*".
- Q8. Photostatic copy of envelope (front) postmarked  
"Los Angeles, California, 8, Arcade Annex, March 22,  
1937, 1 P. M.".
- Q9. Photostatic copy of letter beginning "A sum of\*\*".
- Q10. Photostatic copy of front of envelope postmarked  
"Los Angeles, California, 8, Arcade Annex, March 22,  
1937, 1 P. M.", addressed to Doctor A. M. Foote.
- Q11. Original envelope addressed to Miss Norma Shearer  
postmarked "Los Angeles, California, 4, Arcade Annex,  
March 22, 1937, 2 P. M.".
- K7. Sample handwriting of Doctor Cecil E. Reynolds  
consisting of two sheets of yellow paper.
- K8. Known handwriting of Doctor Cecil E. Reynolds  
consisting of the following:  
Two photographs of suspect Reynolds, each containing  
the suspect's name, address and #34477 on the back.  
Typewritten memorandum containing writing on the front  
beginning "Please commence at\*\*".

b6  
b7C

5/7  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

L 7  
# 16205

Laboratory Report

Case: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Anna  
May Wong, Victim. Extortion.

Number: 9-2639-20

b6  
b7C

Specimens: 9-2639-20 K10 Known handwriting of [ ] consisting of one piece  
of paper beginning "Please use the\*\*\*\*" identified as  
item #1.  
" K11 Known handwriting of W. D. Howard consisting of page  
of writing dated 1-18-37 beginning "Please Call\*\*\*\*",  
identified as item #2.  
" K12 Purported Known handwriting of a suspect consisting of page of  
writing beginning "to you his\*\*\*\*" identified as item #3.

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Date received: 4-23-37 ft

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination:

no Ident 4/20 WAB  
Examination by: [ ]

Q paying of ins

no of before as  
pages you'll no

F cash 6  
Call

K11  
F 6 Call m

ans. 4-37  
5 WAB

To  
fl.  
you

K12 the paid to  
for of for  
you no



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Los Angeles, California  
April 16, 1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selznick; Anna  
May Wong, Victim. EXTORTION  
L. A. File 9-175

During the course of the investigation of the above case, there have been several telephone calls and personal visits on the part of individuals who believed they had information which might lead to the identity of the writer of the extortion notes.

One [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent (A) [redacted] and advised that for sometime he has been typing stories written by one [redacted] that [redacted] is a very peculiar individual, foreign extraction, and writes very fantastic stories which, so far as [redacted] knows, have never been sold by [redacted]. In other words, [redacted] believes that the stories are of such a nature that they are absolutely worthless for commercial purposes. [redacted] submitted a handwriting specimen of [redacted] which is attached hereto, designated "Item No. 1".

b6  
b7C

Dr. CECIL E. REYNOLDS, who was interviewed by local authorities and Special Agent [redacted] as a suspect in this case, and whose handwriting specimens and fingerprints have already been forwarded to the Bureau, and comparisons made by the Bureau without identifying same as being identical with the extortionist, is of the opinion that his name was suggested to this office by an enemy of his, one W. D. HOWARD, although Dr. REYNOLDS was assured that neither Mr. HOWARD or anyone else suggested his name to us, but that it arose in the natural course of this investigation. He insisted upon producing a handwriting specimen of Mr. HOWARD, and the same is likewise enclosed herewith, designated "Item No. 2".

b6  
b7C

RECORDED

INDEXED

9-2639-20

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory

Director

-2-

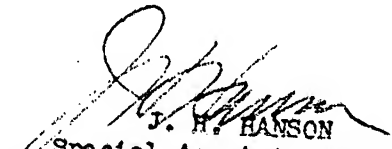
4-15-37

On April 9, 1937, one [redacted] who refused to give his street address, appeared at the Los Angeles office and in interview stated he had a logical suspect in mind in this case; that he has known the suspect for many years and knows him to be a man who pulls shady business deals, in many cases the deals amounting to fraud. [redacted] left what he stated to be a handwriting specimen of the suspect, whose name he refused to divulge, and said specimen is likewise enclosed herewith, designated "Item No. 3".

b6  
b7C

It is respectfully requested that a comparison be made between these notes and the writing on the extortion notes, and the results of the Laboratory's findings transmitted to this office.

Very truly yours,

  
J. H. HANSON  
Special Agent in Charge

MBM:AB

Encs.

Los Angeles, California  
April 21, 1937

Special Agent in Charge  
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Sir:

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selznick and  
Anne Vay Young - Victims.  
EXTORTION  
L. A. File 9-175

Reference is made to letter of the Pittsburgh  
office dated March 23, 1937, in the case entitled  
[redacted] FUGITIVE - Impersonation,  
National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, a copy of which was  
directed to your office, in which it is suggested that  
[redacted] mentioned in the report of  
Special Agent [redacted] at Pittsburgh, dated  
March 19, 1937, may be in reality the person who mailed  
the extortion letters in instant case.

If handwriting specimens of [redacted]  
are available in your files, will you please forward them  
to the Bureau for comparison with the known handwriting of  
the extortionist in the instant case.

Very truly yours,

J. H. HATTON  
Special Agent in Charge

MMK:AB

CC Bureau  
Pittsburgh  
L.A. File 47-1114

INDEXED

47-2639-20X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 20 1937 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE  
131

47-11088-550X

b6  
b7C



Los Angeles, California  
April 21, 1937

Special Agent in Charge  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Solznick and  
Anna May Wong - Victims.  
EXTORTION  
L. A. File 9-175

Reference is made to your file No. [redacted]

in which it is noted that [redacted]

Victim

alias of "John the Baptist".

has used the

In instant case, the extortion letters mention the name of "John the Baptist" rather prominently and it is, therefore, desired that your office obtain from him handwriting specimens and forward them to the Bureau for comparison with the known handwriting of the extortionist.

Very truly yours,

MEM:AB

J. H. HANCOCK  
Special Agent in Charge

CC Bureau  
L. A. File 31-3418

INDEXED

9-2639-20X1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 26 1937 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE

THU

T

116625-41  
3  
N

b6  
b7C

1816 Smith Young Tower  
San Antonio, Texas.  
April 28, 1937.

GTT/ML

✓ 10  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
Mrs. David Seismick and  
Anna May Wong Victims  
Extortion

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of April 21, 1937, you are  
advised that this office does not have any specimens of the  
handwriting of [REDACTED]

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Very truly yours,

cc Bureau ✓  
Pittsburgh

One T. Jones,  
Special Agent in Charge.

9-2639  
INVESTIGATION  
MAY 1 1937 A.M.  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
CHAS. J. [initials]

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES

L.A. FILE NO. 9-175

REPORT MADE AT

Los Angeles

DATE WHEN MADE

4-21-37

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

3-24 to 4-2-37

REPORT MADE BY

AB

TITLE

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;

Mrs. David Selznick, Anna May Wong - Victims.

CHARACTER OF CASE

EXTORTION

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

On 3-24-37, MRS. DAVID SELZNICK and ANNA MAY WONG received, through the United States Mails, letters from anonymous person, signing name of DR. A. M. FOOTE, Valdemar Hotel, Los Angeles, demanding \$20,000.00 in cash from each, and threatening bodily harm to them, their relatives, or any persons interfering with his demands. On 3-25-37, AIMEE SIMPLE McPHERSON received, through the United States Mails, letter from same person, signed in similar manner, making no demand or threat, except asking MRS. McPHERSON to come to his room at 3:30 A.M., as he had role for her in movies. DR. FOOTE taken into custody by investigators for Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, denied writing extortion letters and exhibited letter which he received, giving instructions on how to proceed when payments were received by him. Elimination fingerprints and numerous handwriting specimens obtained from DR. FOOTE and others, and forwarded to Bureau Laboratory for analysis. Numerous anonymous telephone calls received at Val De Mar Hotel on 3-26-37 for DR. FOOTE, but caller or callers hung up before connection completed. No apparent activity on part of extortionist since that date.

- P -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 3 Bureau
- 2 Chicago
- 2 Boston
- 3 Los Angeles

APR 28 PM

ONE  
STAT. SECT.

DETAILS:

Under date of March 24, 1937, a letter postmarked Los Angeles, California, and addressed to MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, [redacted] was delivered through the United States Mails at that address, which is the address of [redacted] his wife and two children, no relation, so far as is known, to the family of DAVID SELZNICK. The letter read as follows:

"Los Angeles, Mar. 24, 1937

"Mrs David Selznick  
[redacted]

Dear Madam:

"Unless you, you in person bring \$20,000 in unmarked cash to me DR. A. M. FOOTE in my room here in the Valdemar hotel 606 So Hope St and this letter and envelope your son Myron will be hopelessly blinded and crippled for life in addition to this your brother-in-law father and husband will \_ injured beyond the cruelest imagination.

"At first thought you may think a man in my profession insane or under the influence of narcotics to write a letter like this but do not be fooled for never in my life were I more cognizant of life and realities than I am at this moment and narcotics do not control me.

"You will recognize that you are not dealing with a spineless individual who writes anonymously but instead one who is firmly purposed and is open with his identity.

"Now you may think you can avoid paying me this sum by calling in police officials and not recognize the hopelessness of any police officials physically or mentally to cope with me for I would know them and they wouldn't know me and I would not hesitate to destroy any number of them. This I would not want to do what I want

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to do is get the money and still not be a fugitive and it is to your best interest that you aid me in this desire.

"Now why do I chose you? I know you gamble and waste your money in Belshazarian feasts that cry to the high heavens that you are put to bed drunk and will not miss the money. Your best bet is to come right down with the money, but call me at Trinity 6931 and let me know what you mean to do and everybody connected with you will be safe.

"There is always an unlocked car at the University Club and I know the length of time they are left there so I have at my disposal plenty of cars not missed and I can strike quickly if I have the slightest inkling that you mean foul play with me. I have other means not mentioned.

"Think clearly now what could you do if at this moment I were definitely committed to strike someone close to you so I think you will agree the expedient thing is to quickly notify me by phone be sure its Trinity 6931 and not the police or associates notify me of your intentions of come to my room quick with the money.

"Now you can Get this money back again and make an immense sum additional if you will come in accord with my plans.

"I have in mind a picture in which I will play the leading role The part of Jesus Christ and I will require in the supporting cast Anna May Wong the Chinese actress and Aimee Sample McPherson and Dr. Harry McCoy who I have chosen to play the part of Aaron and again John the Baptist.

"You see I look just like the general conception of Jesus I am his height and with Jewish features but I am not Jewish all I need is the beard and robes and your brother in law Myron can arrange to get the robes.

"So its not so terrible as at first you thought and if you folks behave you will not be harmed

I will not hold you folks in any way responsible for anything the others might do in hindering my plans. You would though lose the \$20,000 this is a mere matter of guarantee that you will work for my interest.

"Now while I write in a kindly vien do not forget that I have the instruments placed where I can obtain them and that I will destroy everybody connected with you in a manner worse than death if you fail me."

"Awaiting your call  
A. M. Foote W. D.  
Valdemar hotel  
606 So. Hope St.  
L. A."

The first information concerning the foregoing letter came to the Los Angeles office from [redacted] of Detectives [redacted] of the Hollywood Station, Los Angeles Police Department, who notified Special Agent in Charge J. H. RANSON that Radio Officers [redacted] and [redacted] had been called to the home of [redacted] who had turned over to them the above quoted letter. [redacted] advised that [redacted] informed the radio patrolmen that upon receipt of the extortion note, he, [redacted] had opened it, even though it was not addressed to him, or his wife, and he knew the addresses; that upon reading the letter, he tried to communicate with DAVID O. SELZNICK over a period of about two hours; that he was finally informed that DAVID SELZNICK would come for the letter personally, and that when DAVID SELZNICK sent only his chauffeur for the document, he, [redacted] refused to deliver it to him, and telephoned for the police. In due course, the police notified the Los Angeles Bureau office late on the evening of March 24, 1937.

This Agent was directed to proceed to the Hollywood sub-station of the Los Angeles Police Department, where it was learned that the extortion note had been handled by numerous individuals. [redacted] willingly delivered the note to Agent, who placed it in a cellophane envelope. The full contents were thereupon made known to Special Agent in Charge RANSON, who decided to immediately make appropriate investigation of the person whose name appeared as the writer of the letter. Accordingly,

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[redacted] assigned Detectives [redacted] and [redacted] to the case, and they accompanied Agent to the Los Angeles Bureau office where they met with Special Agent in Charge HANSON to discuss plans for the proposed action.

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During the aforementioned plans for action, Special Agent in Charge HANSON received several telephone calls from MRS. DAVID O. SELZNICK, in one of which she advised that ANNA MAY WONG had also received an extortion note from the writer of the SELZNICK note, and that through her manager, T. R. CONLON, the same had been delivered to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Later, MRS. DAVID SELZNICK advised that investigators for the District Attorney had taken DR. A. M. FOOTE into custody and were holding him secretly in a downtown Los Angeles hotel. Special Agent in Charge HANSON thereupon telephoned to [redacted] the Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, and learned from [redacted] that FOOTE was in custody, but apparently was not the writer of the extortion notes; that samples of his handwriting had been compared with that in the WONG extortion note and was not identical. [redacted] further advised that FOOTE had produced a letter in the same handwriting as the SELZNICK and WONG letters, instructing him as to disposition of the money when received.

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On March 25, 1937, the Los Angeles Bureau Office was advised by [redacted] office that the original letters sent through the mails to MISS WONG and DR. FOOTE were available, and Agent thereupon proceeded to [redacted] office, where investigators [redacted] and [redacted] were found preparing to go to T. R. CONLON'S home, 333 South Palm Drive, Beverly Hills, to interview MISS WONG. Agent accompanied the man to Mr. CONLON'S home, where the interview took place. Investigator [redacted] had meanwhile been assigned to act as bodyguard for MISS WONG by the District Attorney.

MISS WONG and MR. CONLON were interviewed at length, but could not recall any person who might have cause to write an extortion letter to MISS WONG. Neither could they suggest anyone with the ability to write such a letter, or one possessed with the desire to produce such a motion picture as described.

Investigators [ ] and [ ] advised Agent that when MISS WONG received her extortion note, they arranged with her to telephone DR. FOOTE for instructions, while they listened on an extension line, before he was taken into custody. This was done, they advise, but DR. FOOTE advised MISS WONG that he knew nothing of the affair, and besides had received a strange note himself, which he could not understand.

At the Val De Mar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, Agent interviewed [ ] (who was out of the city), and from her obtained the registrations at the hotel for a period of months. On inspection, none of the signatures appeared similar to the handwriting on the extortion notes. [ ] was asked who of the hotel guests were intimately acquainted with DR. FOOTE, and stated that she could suggest only R. H. SAYERS, who has lived at the hotel for over five years, and has been a close friend of DR. FOOTE since the latter first registered in over three years ago. MR. SAYERS was interviewed in the presence of Investigators [ ] and [ ] and disclaimed knowledge of any of the details in this case, except as read by him in the newspapers and as disclosed by the note received by DR. FOOTE from the extortionist.

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The letter addressed to MISS WONG was delivered by mail at her apartment house, the Park Wilshire, 2424 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, and is as follows:

"Dear Anna:

"Los Angeles, Mar 24, 1937

"Unless you come down to my room immediately with \$20,000 you will be disfigured and your father will be crippled and others close to you will be injured. First call my number Trinity 6931 and ask for me Dr. A M Foote. The address is Valdamar Hotel 606 S. Hope St.

"You may think a doctor writing such a letter is crazy or under the influence of narcotics but I have narcotics in full control and I have the courage to sign my name.



"You do not need to lose the \$20,00 it is a mere guarantee of cooperation to the fullest extent on your part.

"I going to induce Metro-Goldwyn Myer to have us in the same picture when this carried out the money will be returned. Aimee Semple McPherson and Dr. McCoy will be in the picture. I will play the part of Jesus as I look just like him.

"Be sure you call the right number now and dont try to call the police as you will only cause a terrible toll of lives.

"I do not intend to be a fugitive and if you folks are sensible you will be safe I will not hold you responsible for what others do I will destroy people connected with you if you are to blame

"I know you have the money and I will immediately set to strike if you try any tricks. No police are a match for me physically or mentally and while I have a kindly disposition my very kindness in my ultimate purpose will cause me to excel all human fiendishness in plans much beyond what I have even hinted.

"I can easy get cars in the garage of the millionaires club and no one even knows they have been used. I can strike quick like I did to Byron Fitts when he took a warning from me as other warnings. Had I desired to kill him I could have done so I added to his injuries look at him thats you if you do not comply.

"Assure me by phone immediately and come to my room at once or I strike."

(a) A. M Foote M.D  
606 So Hope St.  
L. A."

Trinity 6931"

The letter addressed to DR. FOOTE was postmarked the same day as those addressed to MRS. DAVID SELZNICK and ANNA MAY HONG, and is as follows:

"Dr A. M Foote:

"A sum of ransom money will be placed in your hands by the following persons or a representative of theirs, Selznicks, Anna May Wong or Dr. McCoy. You will take good care of this money until we contact you and obtain it from you.

"Now you say nothing to any body in this hotel but you wait until you are cabled and you make arrangements to get this paid you in your room.

"Now so far there no news out and everything goes all right if you carry out your part. This is money for the son of David Selznick.

"Now how do we pick you well we know that one of the studio scouts has picked you out to play the part of Jesus you may notice if your not to modest that you are the direct counterpart of Jesus. Just look at yourself in the glass and visualize yourself in the beard and robes of Jesus. Well they are contemplating using you and Aimee McPherson is to play a part and Dr. McCoy is too. Thats why the gang picked you out as these people know you see"

(s) "The Gang"

The originals of the two documents have not been obtained - photostats only being procured, while the originals are being retained by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

On March 25, 1937, Agent interviewed DR. FOOTE at the District Attorney's Office, and obtained from him numerous handwriting specimens and fingerprints. DR. FOOTE could not state who the writer of the extortion letters was. He denied any connection with the letters and pointed particularly to numerous mentions of the accessibility of fast cars to the extortionist, but FOOTE states he has never driven an automobile in his life, and would not know how to operate one. FOOTE is a Spanish American War Veteran, and he states he receives a \$60.00 a month pension, of which \$10.00 goes to pay doctors' bills and \$5.00 for clothes. He pays \$15.00 per month room rent. He stated that he contracted Malaria

during the war mentioned, and that at the present time, he has only one-third of a normal stomach, is afflicted with arthritis and the germ of Malaria is now affecting his heart. He appears to be in a very delicate physical condition.

DR. MOOTE was questioned at length regarding friends and acquaintances, especially at the Val De Mar Hotel, since the note addressed to him indicates the writer lives at said hotel. His attitude was one of complete disgust regarding the entire episode and he was in an extremely irritable state of mind, principally, he indicated, because it was necessary for him to lie down and rest at frequent intervals, and his attention had prevented it. He submitted handwriting samples and fingerprints only on advice of counsel. At about 7:00 P.M., March 25, 1937, he was taken home by the investigators.

On the afternoon of March 25, 1937, Investigator [redacted] of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office interviewed [redacted] to DAVID O. SELZNICK, who recalled that MR. SELZNICK had, sometime previously, made a request of his Research Department to inquire and investigate into a certain eye Malady with which he was afflicted. MR. SELZNICK is near sighted and wears a pair of heavy lensed glasses. [redacted] referred [redacted] to [redacted] the Research Department, who, upon search, located the cash receipt signed by DR. CECIL E. REYNOLDS, Psychiatrist, 1214 Tyler St., Glendale, California, said receipt being for \$50.00, and representing payment to REYNOLDS for two days' research work for MR. DAVID SELZNICK.

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In view of the fact that the SELZNICK extortion letter threatened blindness, MR. SELZNICK advised Special Agent in Charge HANSON that he believed REYNOLDS to be the writer of the extortion notes. In addition, REYNOLDS was believed to be a narcotic addict and claims to be a playwright, having submitted a number of stories to the studios for approval. So far as is known, none has been produced. He has been in several motion pictures and is known to be very close personally to numerous motion picture stars, notable among whom is CHARLES CHAPLIN. He is also well acquainted with MISS WONG.

On March 26, 1937, DR. REYNOLDS voluntarily appeared at the District Attorney's Office and submitted handwriting specimens and fingerprints. He was accompanied by [redacted]

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of the firm of Hanna & Morton, prominent local legal firm. [ ] stated his firm was interested merely because of BYRON HANNA'S friendship of thirty years' standing for DR. REYNOLDS, who had also performed medical services for the HANNA family.

DR. REYNOLDS was questioned regarding this case, but stated he knew nothing of it. He disclaimed acquaintance with DR. FOOTE and DR. FOOTE stated he did not know REYNOLDS. REYNOLDS was shown the SELZNICK extortion letter and repeatedly called attention to statements which he stated were definitely paranoiac - "a man who has systematized delusions of persecution and grandeur, built up upon a false hypothesis or hypotheses". DR. REYNOLDS is known as a prominent brain surgeon, and has practiced in Los Angeles and vicinity for many years. His [ ] stated that REYNOLDS performed so many delicate brain operations in the past that he had to reduce his practice, and now, while still performing brain operations and general practice, the doctor is devoting considerable of his time to playwriting. On DR. REYNOLDS' stationery, he is shown as an "M. D.", a "D.P.H." and a "Member Royal College Surgeons, England".

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On March 25, 1937, there were forwarded to the Bureau the original SELZNICK extortion note, the handwriting specimens of DR. FOOTE and fingerprints of the following persons known to have handled the note, for elimination purposes:

DR. FOOTE  
DR. REYNOLDS

[ ] Detective, Hollywood Sta. LAPD  
[ ] Radio Policeman  
[ ] " "  
[ ] Reporter, Los Angeles Times  
[ ] to whom letter was delivered

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There were also forwarded to the Bureau handwriting specimens of [ ] and R. H. SAYERS, close personal friend of DR. FOOTE and DR. REYNOLDS.



On March 25, 1937, a letter postmarked Los Angeles, 3-24-37, was delivered through the United States Mails to AIMEE SEMPLE McPHERSON, Angelus Temple, Los Angeles. The letter appears to be in the same handwriting as those to MRS. DAVID SELZNICK and ANNA MAY WONG, and is as follows:

"My dear Aimee;

"I have just been released from custody as I have convinced police officials that I had no part in the letters to Mrs. Selznick and Anna May Wong and if you feel safe in revealing this letter to police I feel quite confident of again convincing them I did not write this missive. You will see (1) that I am not to be daunted (2) That I have information that local & federal & espionage officials are not aware of.

"First on the same line as the phone of Anna May Wong is an American born man who aided in the captive of Aginaldo and he has recently been consulted in regard to Japanese espionage in this country. I know when he left the downtown district. Name starts with N.

"I find circumstances different than at first supposed in regard to Anna May Wong and that she used exceptional courage and intelligence in the interest of China and America. I am not so egotistical that I can not ask you to convey my humblest apology to Miss Wong and also my admiration and also you may state that no one connected with her will be injured but I will get the guilty parties. Tell her she has been a true Shunsee and if she can give me any information that will clear up matters, I will co-operate with her.

"A Japanese boy was put to death by the cruelest and longest of torture because he was so patriotically American that he was about to reveal to Hearst ramifications of Japanese espionage in this country his courage should make every American humble in appreciation of the true worth of selected members of that race. Think of it a boy all alone and his own

face violently hostile yet suffering untold tortures he died unsung for an ideal. I will avenge that boy and show the world his wonderful character and I will stop at nothing.

"I write to you as you have understanding [redacted] has equal understanding, but she does not have your kindness. Miss Wong can help us find the people who tortured this boy and we can get to Hearst the information we have.

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"I want you to come down to my room at 3:30 A.M. and disguise your appearance. I have a role in the movies for all and I want Dr. McCoy in a part of Aaron and again as John the Baptist.

"If this Japanese boy had an Aaron a great war might have been averted and the forces of darkness would not have controlled in Japan and in Chilean, Mexican and California Japanese colonies. The Japanese espionage is linked up with the dope ring.

"Dr. McCoy has a very important work to do and he will have to pay some money he has been collecting bills better lately. It may take drastic measures to force him to play this minor role to mine but I will stop at nothing and Selznick will produce the play and then his child will be returned unharmed.

"When you converse with me you will have it revealed to you that I am Jesus a much worn Jesus a too human Jesus fastly separating from his divinity but I have for ages assumed mans burdens and feel not complete without your aid."

(s) "Dr. A M Foote  
Valdemar hotel  
606 So Hope St  
L.A"

"Trinity 6931"

This letter was delivered to the District Attorney's Office by [redacted] of Angelus Temple, and by the District Attorney's Office to the Los Angeles Bureau Office. Fingerprints of [redacted] and two young lady employees in his office, [redacted] and [redacted] were obtained and forwarded to the Bureau with the original letter, for

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elimination purposes. The letter to MRS. McPHERSON appears also to have been written by the writer of the SELZNICK and WONG letters. It will be noted that when this letter was posted, DR. A. M. FOOTE was being detained by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and could not personally have placed the letter in a mail box.

It might be mentioned that the DAVID SELZNICKS have no son by the name of "MYRON". Also, that no such person as DR. HARRY MCCOY is known locally.

On March 27, 1937, the Bureau advised telegraphically that it desired additional handwriting specimens of DR. FOOTE, and, further, that there was no reason to suspect the individuals who submitted handwriting specimens. Additional handwriting specimens of DR. FOOTE in the form of the wording of the SELZNICK extortion letter, were accordingly submitted, it being explained to the Bureau that DR. FOOTE submitted them grudgingly, as he was apparently very much irritated at the request, and tired very easily at the task, requiring several rest periods.

On March 27, 1937, the Bureau also advised telegraphically that seven latent fingerprints were developed on the SELZNICK letter, all being eliminated as having been made by [redacted] and [redacted]. This was confirmed by Bureau letter dated April 1, 1937.

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Laboratory report dated March 30, 1937, advised that:

"The original extortion letter, designated as specimens Q1 and Q2, is written in ink on pieces of white linen finish paper containing no watermark. The paper measures 8x10" in size and has a substance number from twenty to twenty-two. The letter was enclosed in a plain white linen finish envelope containing the watermark 'Lord Baltimore Linen', which is sold by the United Drug Company, whose main offices are at Greenleaf, Leon and Forsyth Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The envelope measures 5.38x3.40".

On April 10, 1937, Bureau letter dated April 9, 1937 was received, advising that all latent fingerprints on the McPHERSON letter had been eliminated as those made by the young lady employees at the Temple, with the exception of one print on the envelope. This print was doubtless left by a postal employee.

At the Val De Mar Hotel, through [redacted] and [redacted] Agent has made numerous visits for the purpose of obtaining samples of writing paper and handwriting specimens of guests, but although these women show an earnest desire to cooperate, Agent was informed by Investigator [redacted] of the District Attorney's Office that he offered the sum of \$50.00 to any hotel employee who would find writing paper or writing to match the extortion notes. [redacted] did advise, however, that during a two-day period prior to March 26, 1937, she received either six or seven telephone calls from outsiders for DR. FOOTE, and in each instance the caller hung up before the connection was made to DR. FOOTE'S room. While [redacted] is inclined to believe they were all from the same person, a man, she could not so state definitely. In view, however, of the nature of the notes, wherein the writer's name, address and telephone number are all given, there appears to be a possibility that curious people merely want to check whether there is such a man as DR. FOOTE at the Val De Mar Hotel. DR. FOOTE has promised to immediately communicate with the Los Angeles Bureau office and the District Attorney's Office in the event he receives any suspicious calls, and will make an appointment to meet the caller at a time sufficiently beyond the call to permit proper surveillance of the meeting place. He has heard nothing in connection with this case since March 26, 1937.

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On March 28, 1937, one [redacted] advised Special Agent in Charge HANSON that one [redacted] who pretends to be a playwright, but has never sold any material, was a strangely acting person, writing more or less religious works. [redacted] according to [redacted] was extremely cautious with his writings, and never left more than one-half of his stories with [redacted] at one time for fear of having his ideas stolen. [redacted] was interviewed by Agent at the former's residence, [redacted] related the foregoing and submitted a sample of [redacted] handwriting, which is being transmitted to the Bureau Laboratory for analysis under separate cover. [redacted] states that he will obtain additional specimens if required.

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There was received by the Selznick Studios, on about March 27, 1937, the following letter addressed under date of March 26, 1937 by [redacted]

[redacted] to DAVID O. SELZNICK:

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"March 26, 1937

"Mr. David O. Selznick,

"Dear Sir-:

"I have read in the papers about the extortion notes sent you.

"I may be able to help a Mr. M. W. Waters alias Mr. Foote & various other names when he was in Chicago.

"This man blackmailed me out of \$8500.00 by threatening to cut my little girls throat at the theater were made over the phone.

"As a result I had a nervous breakdown. The last I heard Mr. Waters was in Los Angeles after jumping all over the country.

"He is about 5 feet 10 weight 175 lbs dark complected.

"I ran out of money trying to bring him to justice.

"I think if you can find him he might be your man.

"Respectfully yours,

(s) [redacted]

Suitable lead is being set out for the Chicago office to interview [redacted] in an effort to locate the MR. FOOTE he mentions for the purpose of obtaining handwriting specimens.

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On the occasion of Agent's last interview of DR. FOOTE, he informed that he had met one GEORGE A. (AL) WILSON during 1936; that WILSON was a very peculiar individual of possibly psychopathic tendencies; that WILSON was also known to [redacted]

[redacted] Agent contacted [redacted] who stated that after reading the SELZNICK extortion note, he was convinced that WILSON would constitute a perfect suspect in this case. [redacted] also stated that he considered DR. FOOTE capable of the extortion

\_\_\_\_\_ In talking to \_\_\_\_\_ it was learned that DR. FOOTE first imparted the information relative to WILSON to the District Attorney's Office, and from the latter, Agent learned that the investigators had already found that WILSON was \_\_\_\_\_ of a girl named \_\_\_\_\_ a telephone operator, \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_ the investigators state they learned that WILSON was contacting her periodically, but she was not mixing with him socially any more, as she had a new boy friend. \_\_\_\_\_ promised, however, that as soon as she learned WILSON'S address, she would communicate with officers. In this connection, the officers advised that they have a technical charge of "defrauding an innkeeper" against \_\_\_\_\_ but promised not to press the charge if she would cooperate.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at the Val De Mar Hotel advised that both DR. FOOTE and \_\_\_\_\_ were very quiet, reserved gentlemen, but had numerous callers, \_\_\_\_\_ being an election judge, and FOOTE a Spanish American War veteran and continually endeavoring to "swing" some mining deal. The women mentioned one \_\_\_\_\_ at the Val De Mar Hotel as an intimate of FOOTE, but \_\_\_\_\_ is a young man with a large, firm handwriting, as evidenced by the hotel register, and FOOTE stated positively that \_\_\_\_\_ could have no connection with the extortion letters.

Following is a description of DR. FOOTE, as obtained from personal observation and interrogation:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Age             | 64  |
| Height          | 5' 11"  |
| Weight          | 130   |
| Build           | Slender   |
| Hair            | Gray - thin   |
| Eyes            | Hazel   |
| Complexion      | Sallow  |
| Glasses         | Yes; alternates with and without  |
| Scars or marks  | Deep lines in face  |
| Occupation      | Practiced chiropractic in Los Angeles but discontinued in 1920 and has been inactive since. |
| Military Record | Spanish American War Veteran  |

DR. CECIL E. REYNOLDS called at the Los Angeles office and made it quite apparent that in his opinion his name had been suggested as a suspect in this case by a person whom he considers his worst enemy - one WILLIAM DUFF HOWARD, 624 South Mariposa Street, Los Angeles. DR. REYNOLDS produced a statement which he had prepared, covering eight pages, dealing with his relations with MR. HOWARD over a long period of time. It was explained to DR. REYNOLDS that his name came into the investigation in a natural way, and was not suggested by anyone; however, he has insisted upon producing a handwriting specimen of MR. HOWARD, and the same is being forwarded to the Technical Laboratory under separate cover for analysis in this case. It is not deemed advisable to include the contents of the statement which he prepared in this report; however, the same is being retained in the Los Angeles file. In this connection, Laboratory report dated April 7, 1937, indicates that in the examiner's opinion, the writings of DR. REYNOLDS are not identical with those of the extortionist.

In letter of the Los Angeles office to the Bureau, dated March 25, 1937, there was enclosed an envelope addressed to MISS NORMA SHEARER, motion picture actress, for comparison of the handwriting with that in this case, to determine if the writer was identical with the extortionist. Laboratory report of April 7, 1937 indicates that it is not believed to be in the same handwriting.

On April 9, 1937, one [redacted] called at the Los Angeles office, but refused to give his street address. He stated he had a logical suspect in this case in mind, and submitted a sample of the suspect's handwriting. The same is likewise being forwarded to the Laboratory under separate cover for comparison with the known handwriting of the extortionist in this case.

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Telatype summaries, telegrams and letters from the Los Angeles office have kept the Bureau constantly advised of the developments in this case.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE BOSTON DIVISION, at Boston, will make inquiry at Main Offices of United Drug Company, Greenleaf, Leon and Forsyth Streets, to determine to whom Lord Baltimore Linen envelopes are sold in Los Angeles.

THE CHICAGO DIVISION, at Chicago, will interview [redacted] and determine the identity of the MR. FOOTE which [redacted] mentions in his letter quoted herein; if located, obtain handwriting specimens and forward them to the Bureau Laboratory for analysis in connection with this case.

THE LOS ANGELES DIVISION, at Culver City, will interview [redacted] of the Selznick International Studios, and request of these individuals that they examine their files for stories and types which might correspond with the type and character of the extortionist as indicated by the extortion letter addressed to MRS. DAVID SELZNICK. It will be noted that the extortionist mentions only a religious play, and also that he describes DR. FOOTE as one bearing a perfect resemblance to Jesus Christ; however, from observation, DR. FOOTE appears to be far from this type. Will interview [redacted] in care of the Research Department of the Selznick Studios, and also [redacted] to Mr. Selznick, for any additional information which they may be able to supply which might lead to the identity of the writer of the extortion notes.

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AT LOS ANGELES, will endeavor to locate GEORGE A. (AL) WILSON, through [redacted] last known address [redacted] When located, WILSON should be interviewed and handwriting specimens obtained and forwarded to the Bureau for comparison with the known handwriting of the extortionist in this case. Investigators [redacted] and [redacted] of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office will be of assistance in locating WILSON.

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At the Val De Mar Hotel, Los Angeles, will keep in touch with [redacted] and [redacted] and ascertain whether they have been able to obtain any handwriting specimens and samples of writing paper from the guests' rooms.

Will contact DR. FOOTE and ascertain whether he has had any additional anonymous calls which might throw some light on the writer of the extortion notes.

- P E N D I N G -



6-23-37

Copy of 9-2639-21

to



for

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b7C

1/2

WCD:LM  
LWC:ON

April 30, 1937.

RECORDED

9-2633-22

Mr. J. H. Hanson,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
903 Pacific Commerce Building,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David O. Selanick - Victim;  
Anna May Wong - Victim;  
Extortion.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report  
covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office  
in connection with the above entitled matter and received in  
the Bureau April 7, 1937.

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure: 61061299

AIR MAIL

APR 10 1937

*JH*

*CPL*

*108*

*10/1/37*

140:ON

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 15503

Laboratory Report

Case: Unknown Subject; Mrs. David O.  
O'Salsnick, Victim; Anna May Hong,  
Victim; Extortion.

April 30, 1937.

Number: 9-2639-14

Specimens:

K9. Four pages of handwriting specimens of Dr. A. M. Foote.

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Date received: 4/7/37

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination:

Examination by [redacted] dictated by Conrad

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It has been impossible to reach a conclusion as to whether Dr. A. M. Foote wrote the anonymous letters received in connection with this case on the basis of the known writing available. While it is believed that additional specimens of this individual's writing might be of assistance in reaching a definite opinion, it is noted that in your letter of April 5, 1937, the statement appears that the agent who obtained the specimens felt that Foote would refuse if additional samples were requested.

1-Bureau  
2-Los Angeles  
1-Laboratory

9-2639-22

MAY 13 1937

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

IWC:ON  
9-2639-15

April 30, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN.

Re: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David O. Selznick, Victim;  
Anna May Wong, Victim; Extortion.

Your attention is respectfully invited to the following out and out disagreement between laboratory examiners in connection with their examination of material submitted by the Los Angeles Field Division in the above-entitled case and received in the laboratory on April 7, 1937.

[redacted] the #1 examiner, reports that in his opinion Dr. A. M. Foote did not write the anonymous letters previously received. [redacted] reaches this conclusion as a result of an examination of the additional known writings submitted, he having previously been unable to reach a conclusion relative to this suspect on the basis of earlier known writing.

[redacted] the #2 examiner, reports that in his opinion suspect Foote wrote questioned specimens Q1 through Q10 but that he did not write specimen Q11. [redacted] had not previously examined the writing of this suspect, the earlier examination having been made by [redacted] who is at present on annual leave.

[redacted] the #3 examiner, concurs in the opinion of [redacted] and it is noted that [redacted] previously reported the same opinion on the basis of the earlier handwriting specimens.

Accordingly, a no conclusion report is being furnished the Los Angeles Field Division, noting that although additional specimens of this suspect's writing might be of assistance in reaching a definite opinion, the agent originally securing the specimens felt that it would not be possible to obtain additional specimens at that time.

RECORDED

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

80-99-413

b6  
b7C

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

9-2639-23

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
MAY 1 1937  
FBI - LOS ANGELES



CG: DMS

May 7, 1937.

RECORDED 2-2639-24

Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Anna  
May Wong, Victim of Tortion.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION ONE  
MAY 11 1937  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

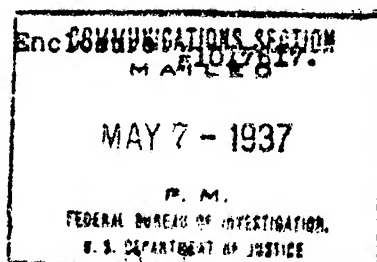
Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau April 23, 1937.

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



WOB:DMS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#

18205

Laboratory Report

Case: Unknown Subject; May 7, 1937.  
Mrs. David Selznick, Anna  
May Wong, Victim,  
Extortion.

Number:

8-2639-20

Specimens: 8-2639-20 K10

Known handwriting of [redacted] consisting of one piece of paper beginning "Please use the\*" identified as item #1. b6 b7C

" K11 Known handwriting of W.D. Howard consisting of page of writing dated 1-18-37 beginning "Please Call\*", identified as item #2.

" K12 Suspected known handwriting of a suspect consisting of page of writing beginning "to you his\*" identified as item #3.

Examination requested by:

Los Angeles

Date received:

April 23, 1937

Examination requested:

Document

Result of examination:

Examination by:

Based on a comparison of the known handwriting submitted, with the anonymous letters received in connection with this case, the conclusion has been reached that the individuals who wrote specimens K10, K11 and K12 did not write the original anonymous letters in this case.

RECORDED

|                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 9-2639-24                       |      |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |      |
| MAY 8 1937 P.M.                 |      |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |      |
| ONE<br>[initials]               | FILE |

1-Bureau  
2-Los Angeles  
1-Laboratory

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

FILE NO. 9-301

|   |                          |                                  |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>Chicago, Ill.                                   | DATE WHEN MADE<br>5/7/37 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>4/30/37 | REPORT MADE BY<br>[REDACTED] JBL:LM |
| UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;<br>MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, ANNA MAY WONG - VICTIMS |                          |                                  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION      |

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b7C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] reported to be mentally deranged.  
Any information furnished by him of no value.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, Calif., dated 4/21/37.

DETAILS:

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

In the absence of [REDACTED] from his residence, [REDACTED] was interviewed. Upon being informed of the nature of the inquiry [REDACTED] stated: "Pay no attention to that". [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] has been out of work for the past nine years; that he had associated with [REDACTED] in 1933, at which time [REDACTED] was an agent for the [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] gave [REDACTED] approximately \$8,000 for speculation purposes on the market, which were lost, and that [REDACTED] has been bemoaning this fact ever since. [REDACTED] stated that she knew [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] and that he never did use the name of FOOT, and that there was never any blackmail or extortion on the part of [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] went into the business with his eyes wide open and is "just a hard loser". In [REDACTED] opinion [REDACTED] is trying to work spite against [REDACTED] and she states [REDACTED] has all sorts of illusions, and she considers him mentally deranged, although she does not like to make this statement. [REDACTED] considers [REDACTED] irresponsible for his acts or any letters he might write, but states there has never been any difficulty in their family with reference to

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *D. M. Ladd*  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

9 2639 25 MAY 10 1937

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

Bureau - 3  
Los Angeles - 3  
Chicago - 2

[ ] as indicated in [ ] letter.

In an effort to verify this statement made by [ ]  
[ ] was contacted.  
[ ] has lived in that community for the past twenty years,  
[ ] stated in confidence that [ ] has the reputation in the  
neighborhood of being mentally unbalanced, but not dangerous.

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In view of the foregoing information no further investi-  
gation is being conducted by the Chicago Field Division in this  
area.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO DIVISION OF ORIGIN.

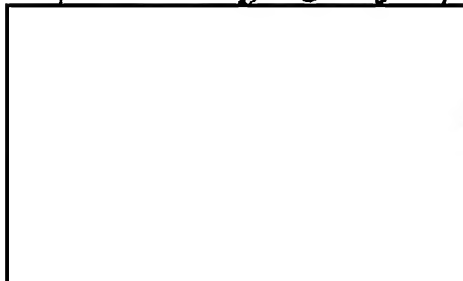


6-23-37

Copy 7

9-2639-25-

to



for

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H

# G-MEN, DIST. ATTY. AIDES IN INQUIRY

Dr. Cecil Reynolds, psychiatrist and amateur playwright, today appeared at the district attorney's office and volunteered to aid in the investigation into the writing of extortion letters to Anna May Wong, exotic Chinese screen actress, and Mrs. David O. Selznick, wife of the film producer.

With Attorney J. A. Hamilton at his side, Dr. Reynolds was interviewed for more than an hour in a secluded office on the sixth floor of the Hall of Justice by investiga-



**DR. CECIL REYNOLDS**  
*Psychiatrist Offers to Aid in  
Extortion Note Probe*

tors of the district attorney's office and by M. B. Myerson, federal agent of the Department of Justice.

and his fingerprints were taken. The handwriting samples and fingerprints were turned over to Myerson, who was to send them to federal experts in Washington, D. C. for analysis.

## FITTS IN STATEMENT

Following the interview, District Attorney Burton Fitts, who has taken personal command of the forces of his department in the investigation, announced:

"We are absolutely convinced that Dr. Reynolds had no connection with the extortion letters, had no interest in the matter and no knowledge of the letters until he read newspaper accounts of the case. We are very grateful for Dr. Reynolds' visit to this office, and appreciative of his cooperation."

Investigators said taking of fingerprints and handwriting samples from Dr. Reynolds was merely for the purpose of technical investigation.

Investigators said a cursory examination of Dr. Reynolds' handwriting showed that it did not resemble handwriting in the extortion letters in any degree.

Just why Dr. Reynolds came into the investigation remained considerable of a mystery.

The interview lasted more than an hour.

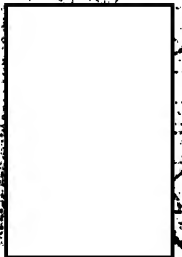
## DOCTOR CO-OPERATES

Following the interview and the taking of his fingerprints, the psychiatrist and his attorney departed from the Hall of Justice. Dr. Reynolds was smiling and affable.

"I was only too glad to co-operate with the authorities when they advised me that they would like samples of my handwriting and my fingerprints," he said.

"I repeat, I do not know and never have heard of the Holt-

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Fitts  
Mr. Myerson  
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b7C



9-2639-6

## Dr. Reynolds Aids In Extortion Quiz

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

nicks or Miss Wong. I have never met them socially, nor have I ever treated them professionally.

"Neither do I know nor have heard of Dr. A. M. Foote, whose name, I have been told, was signed to the extortion letters.

"In fact, I know nothing about the case except what I have read in the newspapers and was told today by the authorities.

"I am completely mystified as to why I was asked to visit the authorities, and as to why they desired specimens of my handwriting and my fingerprints."

### THRILL PLAY

The psychiatrist recently wrote a play, "The Mystery of Broadwalk Asylum," a thrill opus.

Miss Wong also was scheduled to appear at the district attorney's office, to express her views as to the possible identity of the extortion letter she received.

At the same time, authorities considered the possibility that the Wong and Selznick letters were written by the person who mailed a threat note to Almee Temple McPherson recently.

District Attorney Flitts is personally interested in the case because the letter received by Miss Wong contained a boast by the writer that it was he who shot the district attorney the night of March 7.

Meanwhile, federal agents also continued to search for the writer or writers of the letters. They had in their possession the letter intended for Mrs. Selznick threatening harm to herself and family unless the writer was paid \$20,000, but which was mailed to Joseph

Selznick, a distant relative of Mrs. Selznick's famous husband.

District Attorney Flitts, who holds the Wong letter, which also demanded \$20,000 under threat of injury to the actress and her family, late yesterday asked Miss Wong to come to his office today.

### ALSO RECEIVED LETTER

Dr. A. M. Foote, elderly chiropractor, whose name was signed to the Wong and Selznick letters and who also received a letter from the writer demanding that he act as intermediary and receive the money, still was held in technical custody as a possible material witness.

Chief Investigator Clyde I. Plummer said he is convinced that Dr. Foote was made the innocent victim of the writer of the weird and almost maniacal letters.

County authorities, federal agents and police, after comparing handwriting and the tablet paper on which the Wong, Selznick and Foote letters were written, were unanimous in their conviction that the same and an apparently demented man was the writer of all three missives.

The threat letter received recently by Mrs. McPherson, noted evangelist and pastor of Angelus Temple, also was written upon tablet paper similar to that used in the other three letters. The authorities said it is probable that the same person wrote all four of the threat notes.

"Our investigation has taken on many ramifications," Plummer said today, "and we plan to question many persons. We have certain suspects in mind, and we are proceeding upon a process of elimination."

# 2 EXTORTION PLOT SUSPECTS TRAILED HERE

Dr. A. M. Foote Under Guard;  
Letter Sent to Washington;  
Handwriting Samples Taken

Two "definite suspects," the District Attorney's office disclosed yesterday, are under surveillance in the weird extortion plot directed against Anna May Wong, Mrs. David O. Selznick and Allice Semple McPherson.

Meantime, as a result of threats made against the life of Dr. A. M. Foote, named by the author of the sinister series of extortion letters as an intermediary, the chiropractor was being protected by heavily-armed guards.

## Developments

Developments yesterday, as officials sought to penetrate the thick curtain of mystery concealing the identity of the would-be extortionist who has terrorized the notables with demands for \$20,000 each, under the menace of dire consequences, included:

1. Action of the Department of Justice in forwarding to Washington, for comparison with other letters received by prominent persons here, the letter received Thursday by Mrs. McPherson, and indication that G-men here are conducting a secret but intensive investigation.

## Handwriting

2. Taking of handwriting samples by the District Attorney's office from two Hollywood publicists. These men, it was announced, are not suspects, but the check is being made in the determination to overlook no possibility in the strange case.

3. Announcement by J. Clark Sellers, handwriting expert, that he will report tomorrow the results of his microscopic scrutiny of the threat notes and samples taken from a number of persons.

4. Disclosure by District Attorney Burton that out of a group rendered by a number of "volunteers"—recent victims of extortion attempts—who have furnished a list of suspects which is being sifted painstakingly.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Boardman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Darnley .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. J. Edgar .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn

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7-2629-A  
LOS ANGELES EXAMINE  
MAR 26 1937



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

FILE NO. **9-94 IMC**

|   |                                  |  |                                       |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>BOSTON, MASS.</b>  | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>5/28/37</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>5/5/37</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br><div></div>         |
| TITLE<br><b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT;<br/>MRS. DAVID SELZNICK;<br/>ANNA MAY WONG, VICTIMS.</b> |                                  |  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>EXTORTION</b> |

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b7C

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Lord Baltimore envelopes distributed exclusively to Rexall Stores. List of names of said Rexall Stores forwarded division of origin.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent  Los Angeles, 4-21-37.

**DETAILS:**

United Drug Company, 43 Leon St., Boston, Mass., advised Agent that said drug company distributed Lord Baltimore Linen envelopes exclusively to all Rexall Stores.  furnished Agent with a list in triplicate of the names of said Rexall stores, which list is being forwarded, together with copies of this report, to the Los Angeles Division.

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explained to Agent that in the spring and fall of each year, around the months of April and October, said Rexall Stores hold a one cent sale, enabling the purchase of two boxes of said envelopes at the price of one, plus one cent, and suggested that it is likely that other merchants make purchases from these Rexall Stores, during such sales, enabling them to subsequently sell at a profit at standard prices.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

|  |                         |                              |              |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><div></div> | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |              |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT                  |                         | 9 12639 26                   | JUN 1 - 1937 |
| 3 - Bureau                             |                         | JUN 1 - AM                   |              |
| 2 - Los Angeles (enclosures)           |                         |                              |              |
| 2 - Boston                             |                         |                              |              |

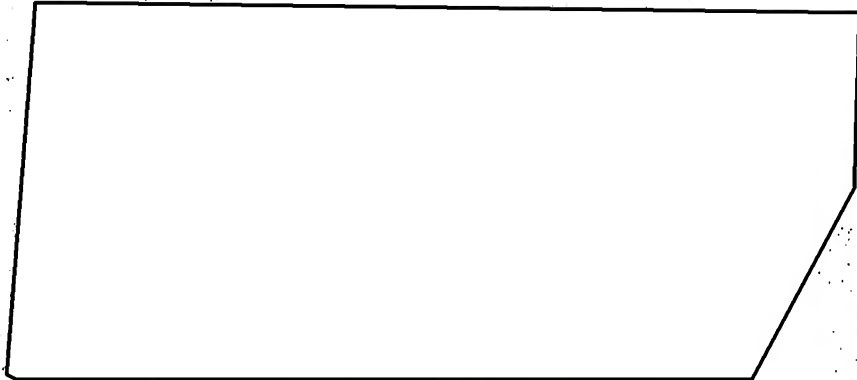
6-23-37

Copy of

9-2639-26

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b7C

to  
for



1/25

RECORDED 9-2639 -27

RCV:TD

June 23, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL McMAHON

Re: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Salnick;  
Anna May Wong, Victims;  
EXTORTION.

Reference is made to your memorandum dated June 11, 1937, with which there were inclosed a letter dated May 22, 1937, addressed to the President by Doctor Cecil E. Reynolds, a report addressed by him to Special Agent [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation dated March 28, 1937, together with a copy of the Los Angeles Evening Herald Express of March 25, 1937 and a copy of the Los Angeles Times of March 25, 1937, which relate to his questioning by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the receipt by Anna May Wong, Mrs. David Salnick and others of alleged threatening letters.

In accordance with the request that you be furnished with copies of all available reports concerning the above captioned case, there is transmitted herewith one copy each of the following reports:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Los Angeles, California, April 21, 1937.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Chicago, Illinois, May 7, 1937.

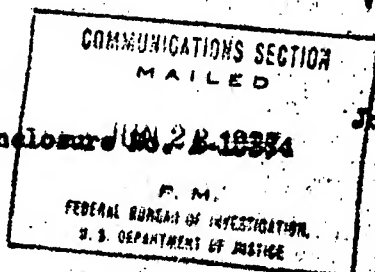
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Boston, Massachusetts, May 28, 1937.

As requested in your memorandum, the papers referred to above are being returned to you herewith.

Very truly yours,

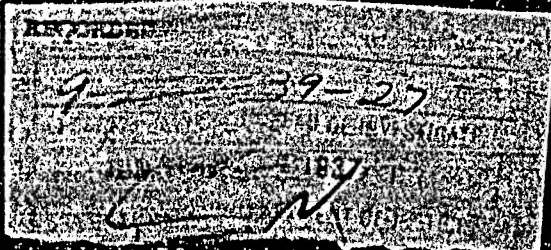
John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Inclosure 100-2-19374



No copies of newspapers retained  
Bureau file.





CRIMINAL DIVISION  
MAY 28 1937  
RECEIVED

May 22 1937

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Esq.  
President of the United States  
of America.  
Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION  
J. Edgar Hoover  
Director of the FBI

Sir,  
Remembering the great courtesy and accuracy of your response  
to my inquiries regarding cert. in utilities in which many persons  
of small means here had invested, I venture to call your attention  
to a far more serious matter. This matter involves the very basis  
of justice, whilst apathy in regard to it makes good citizenship  
insecure and strengthens the hands of the so-called "gangsters".

This appeal is addressed to you because my attorneys have no  
power to subpoena the local Federal officials, whose information  
as I believe could, if combined with the facts in our possession,  
show the roots of a distasteful and dangerous plot.

At the outset I desire to make plain that we have received the  
greatest courtesy from the Federal investigators, of whom I am  
person outspoke and deplored the action attributed to some person  
or persons within the District Attorney's office in soliciting the  
public press to broadcast a groundless rumor.

Furthermore, some papers deliberately misstated the facts.  
On the other hand the original statement was being amplified and the  
not result of all this melodramatic business is that the public  
is being misled.



BRIEN McMAHON  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice  
Washington

84-0

June 11, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR,  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

Transmitted herewith is a letter dated May 22, 1937, by reference from the White House, from Cecil E. Reynolds, M.D., D.P.H., Member Royal College Surgeons, England, 1214 Tyler Street, Glendale, California, inclosing a report addressed by him to [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and dated March 26, 1937, together with a copy of the Los Angeles Evening Herald Express of Thursday, March 25, 1937, and a copy of the Los Angeles Times of Thursday Morning, March 25, 1937, relative to his questioning by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the receipt by Anna May Wong and Mrs. David O. Selznick, and others of alleged threatening letters. You will note from an examination of the attached papers that Dr. Reynolds has only the highest praise for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but that he feels particularly aggrieved with the alleged activities of a suspected individual in the local district attorney's office.

[redacted] of this Division telephonically contacted [redacted] of the Division of Records, and requested copies of all available reports made in the Anna May Wong and Mrs. David O. Selznick extortion cases. [redacted] advised [redacted] that no copies of any reports made in either case had been received by the Division of Records.

I should appreciate receiving copies of all available reports made concerning the Anna May Wong and Mrs. David O. Selznick extortion cases. Kindly return the attached papers in order that a reply may be made to Dr. Reynolds.

RECORDED & INDEXED  
Respectfully,

*Brien McMahon*

BRIEN McMAHON  
Assistant Attorney General

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

Enclosure  
No. 34634.

*behind file*

*6/23/37*  
*RCV*

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Mr. Nathan    |  |
| Mr. Tolson    |  |
| Mr. E.A. Tamm |  |
| Mr. Clegg     |  |
| Mr. Coffey    |  |
| Mr. Glavin    |  |
| Mr. Ladd      |  |
| Mr. Nichols   |  |
| Mr. Rosen     |  |
| Mr. Tracy     |  |
| Mr. Carson    |  |
| Mr. Egan      |  |
| Mr. Gurnea    |  |
| Mr. Harbo     |  |
| Mr. Hendon    |  |
| Mr. Jones     |  |
| Mr. Quinn     |  |
| Mr. Nease     |  |
| Mr. Gandy     |  |

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b7C

ROY:RE

9-2639

July 10, 1937

Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, California.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selznick;  
Anna May Wong - Victim;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

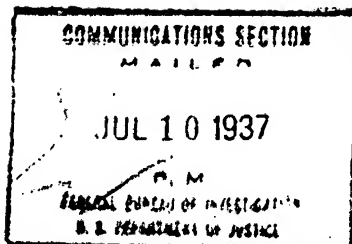
The Bureau file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your district.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

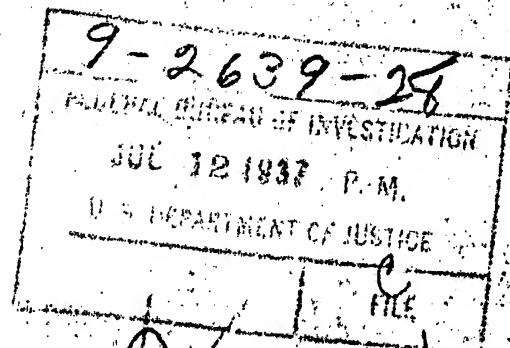
Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



RECORDED



Los Angeles, California  
August 14, 1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
Mrs. David Selanick  
Anna May Wong, Victims  
EXTORTION  
L. A. File #9-175

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto please find eight pages of handwriting specimens of German A. Wilson, 3744 Verdugo Rd., Glendale, Calif., which specimens are written on plain white paper and which were obtained from Mr. Wilson by Special Agent [redacted] on July 20, 1937. This material was dictated to Mr. Wilson, who furnished these specimens voluntarily.

Also transmitted herewith please find two pages of handwriting obtained from Dr. A. M. Foote, Valdemar Hotel, 606 So. Hope St., Los Angeles, which were also obtained by Special Agent [redacted] on July 14, 1937. Agent [redacted] has advised me that Dr. Foote was very reluctant to furnish additional handwriting specimens, stating that he felt that he was being persecuted in connection with this matter, and at first declined to furnish additional specimens. The material written by Dr. Foote was copied from the typewritten not the photostatic copy of the letter received by Dr. Foote, inasmuch as Dr. Foote would furnish additional handwriting specimens under his conditions only. He advised that this would be the last time that he would cooperate in furnishing handwriting specimens.

It is requested that the above-mentioned specimens be compared in the laboratory with the handwriting appearing on the original extortion notes mailed in this case.

Very truly yours,

J. H. HANSON  
Special Agent in Charge

FMS/EM  
Encls.

NOT RECORDED

9-2639-29  
AUG 18 1937 P.M.  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 18644

Laboratory Report

Case: Re: Unknown Subject; Mrs. David Selznick, and Anna May Wong, Victims; Extortion. Number: 9-2639-29

Specimens: 9-2639-29. KL3 9 pages of known handwriting specimens of Garman A. Wilson.  
KL4 2 pages of known handwriting specimens of Dr. A. M. Foote.

Examination requested by: Los Angeles (8/14/37)

b6  
b7C

Date received: 8/19/37 MT 3 p.m.

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination: Ident A-10  
No Ident A-11

8/21 1057  
Examination by   #1

*Gang A M Foote*  
*Know part Anne*  
*you called everything*  
*Q9 Good it say hotel but SL*  
*K11 Good it say hotel but SL*  
*you called to*  
*Know part everything*  
*Anne*  
*Gang A M Foote*



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 15644

Laboratory Report

Case: Re: Unknown Subject; Mrs. David Selznick, and  
Anna May Wong, Victims; Extortion.

Number: 9-2639-29

Specimens: 9-2639-29 K13 9 pages of known handwriting specimens of  
Gerrard A. Wilson.  
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Examination requested by: Los Angeles (8/14/37)

Date received: 8/19/37 PM 3 p.m.

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination:

Examination by:

b6  
b7C

8/19  
Ident K14 with 91-10  
as previously. Non ident K14 to 911  
Non ident K13 to 91-10  
or 911

Q 1-10

K 14

15644  
9-2634

Mr good "cousins" Dr. Jois "cousins"  
Coolidge, Keefe & El. Coolidge, Keefe  
D. H. H. D.  
W. V. K. W.  
A. F. F. A.  
you you  
c. c. Ident

Q 1-10

M

D. D.

K 14

M

S

P

No ident

Q 1-10

M

F

V

K 13

V

F

M

A

H

H

A

No ident

Q 11

M

C

K 13

M

C

V

H

K

K

No ident

K 13

no ident Q 1-11

K 14

no ident Q 11, but ident Q 1-10

9/24/94

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

L.A. FILE NO. 9-175

|  |                           |   |                                 |           |
|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>Los Angeles, Calif.                                      | DATE WHEN MADE<br>8/14/37 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>7/14-16, 20/37 | REPORT MADE BY<br>[REDACTED] EM | b6<br>b7C |
| TITLE<br>UNKNOWN SUBJECT<br>Mrs. David Selznick<br>Anna May Wong, Victims. |                           |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION  |           |

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Additional handwriting specimens obtained from Dr. A. M. Foote, Los Angeles. G. A. WILSON located and handwriting specimens obtained. Interviews with employees Selznick International Studios, Culver City, fails to develop additional suspects. Investigators, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, unable furnish pertinent information.

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, California, dated April 21, 1937.

## DETAILS:

Laboratory report No. 9-2639-24 dated May 7, 1937, reflects that a comparison of the known handwriting of [REDACTED] and of a suspect, name unknown, submitted to the Bureau with the handwriting appearing on the extortion letters in instant case, resulted in a conclusion by the Technical Laboratory that none of these individuals wrote the original extortion notes. The Technical Laboratory report No. 9-2639-15 dated April 30, 1937, reflects that the laboratory has been unable to reach a conclusion as to whether

|  |                              |                                      |             |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br>[Signature]             | SPECIAL AGENT<br>[Signature] | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES         |             |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>3 Bureau<br>3 Los Angeles |                              | 9 12639+30<br>AUG 18 1937<br>[Stamp] | AUG 18 1937 |

Dr. A. M. Foote wrote the anonymous letters received in connection with instant case on the basis of the known writing of Dr. Foote, which is available. This report sets out that the laboratory is of the opinion that additional specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting might be of assistance in reaching a definite opinion in this case.

[redacted] and [redacted] at the Valdemar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, stated that they had been unable to obtain any specimens of handwriting or paper from the guests' rooms in the hotel recently; that all specimens which they obtained several months ago were turned over to investigators of the District Attorney's Office, who advised them that the specimens were of no value in this case.

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Agent reinterviewed Dr. A. M. Foote at the Valdemar Hotel, who at first declined to furnish Agent with additional handwriting specimens, stating that he felt that he was being persecuted in this matter and that the specimens he has already submitted should be sufficient to determine and establish his innocence; however, Dr. Foote was finally induced to furnish a small amount of handwriting specimens, agreeing to copy the typewritten copy of the note which he had received in this case. Dr. Foote stated that he would prefer to copy this letter rather than have Agent dictate the same to him and, under the circumstances, he was allowed to do so. It is noted that Dr. Foote submitted these specimens by glancing at the typewritten copy of the note received by him and not from viewing a photostat copy of the original note received by him. These specimens are being transmitted to the Bureau under separate cover, with a request for appropriate handwriting comparison.

Dr. Foote stated that he could suggest no additional suspects in this case but reiterated his suspicions that GEORGE A. (AL.) WILSON could possibly have written the notes in question.

Agent, accompanied by Special Agent (A) [redacted] contacted [redacted] and [redacted] investigators in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, who stated in a vague way that they had covered all leads which had been developed by them without developing additional suspects in this case. They further advised that they had conducted extensive efforts to locate GEORGE A. WILSON, with negative results, and that they had been unable to locate [redacted] who had promised to maintain contact with them, inasmuch as Wilson was believed to be calling upon her from time to time. Agents were further advised that various specimens of handwriting and paper samples turned over to them by [redacted] and [redacted] of the Valdemar Hotel had been examined, which failed to indicate anything of value in this case. They stated that their investigation had been

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brought to a stand-still about two months ago, since which time they have been tied up in court on another matter and, therefore, have nothing of recent date which might be of assistance to Agents. The above investigators indicated that their file in this case would be closed within the near future. Before concluding the above interview, Agent was informed that possibly [ ] could be located through some relief organization inasmuch as she had been on relief rolls at some time in the past. b6 b7C

Agent finally located [ ] at [ ] through information received through inquiries at the WPA office, 206 E. 12th St. Interview with [ ] failed to develop Wilson's present whereabouts; however, she furnished information, which subsequent investigation proved to be pertinent, to the effect that when Wilson last contacted her in March, 1937, he informed her that he was engaged in the real estate business in Los Angeles.

At the office of the Division of Real Estate, State Commissioner's Office, State Building, Agent determined that real estate salesmen and operators are required to have a license in the State of California. A check of the records failed to reveal that George A. Wilson had been issued a license to sell real estate; however, the records did reflect that a temporary salesman's license had been issued to one GARMAN ALFRED WILSON, employed by [ ] and, inasmuch as this name appeared to be the only one similar to George A. (Al.) Wilson, it was deemed advisable to check this individual.

[ ] who operates a real estate business at that address, stated that Garman Alfred Wilson has been employed by her in the past but is presently operating a real estate business of his own at 3744 Verdugo Road, Glendale, California. Inasmuch as the description of this individual, as furnished by [ ] compared favorably with the description of Wilson as previously furnished by [ ] it was decided to interview this individual. b6 b7C

Agent interviewed Garman Alfred Wilson at 3744 Verdugo Road, Glendale, at which time he admitted that he was acquainted with [ ] that he had also associated with [ ] and Dr. A. M. Foote, mentioned in the reference report, from which interview it was apparent that he was identical with the George A. (Al.) Wilson with whom interview was being sought. Wilson agreed to voluntarily accompany Agent to the Los Angeles field division on July 20, 1937, at which time he furnished eight pages of his handwriting specimens. Agent dictated the letter received by Mrs. Selznick, victim, in this case, to him and various other proper names, words and phrases. These handwriting specimens are being transmitted to the Bureau under separate cover for appropriate handwriting analysis and comparison. Wilson denied any connection in instant matter and appeared to be entirely cooperative. He stated that he has done some queer things in the past but has not gone to such lengths as the person writing instant extortion.

letter has evidently done. He related that he has been in the real estate business for the past few years and denied any connection with the movie industry or acquaintance with Mr. David Selznick.

The following physical description of Wilson, obtained by personal observation, is set out below:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Name            | GARMAN ALFRED WILSON                          |
| Age             | 42 (Born August, 1895)                        |
| Height          | 5'6-3/4"                                      |
| Weight          | 170#  |
| Hair            | Brown   |
| Eyes            | Gray  |
| Build           | Heavy   |
| Complexion      | Medium  |
| Nationality     | American                                      |
| Mustache        | Small, brown color                            |
| Marital status  | Married                                       |
| Occupation      | Real estate operator                          |
| Residence       | 3744 Verdugo Road                             |
| Relatives       | Parents deceased; [redacted]<br>same address. |
| Criminal record | None admitted.                                |

At Culver City, California, with the cooperation of [redacted] for Selznick International Studios, all unsolicited incoming communications regarding picture suggestions and letters of transmittal of stories were checked, without developing any pertinent information. None of this correspondence suggested that any individual believed himself capable of playing the part of any religious character or indicated that he would like to have Mr. Selznick produce a religious play along the line suggested in the extortion note to Mr. Selznick.

Agent discussed this case with [redacted] and [redacted] employed by the Studio, in an effort to ascertain whether these individuals had any extra or moving picture player in mind of the type and character who might possibly have written instant extortion note but no suspects were developed through these interviews. Agent also discussed this case with [redacted] Research Department, Selznick Studios, who could furnish no information of value or suggest any additional suspects in this case; however, [redacted] stated that she could not help but feel that Dr. Cecil Reynolds had something to do with the mailing of the extortion letter to Mrs. Selznick.

[redacted] to Mr. David Selznick, stated that she had discussed this matter with the various employees at the studio without developing any additional suspects in this case; that she had talked with Mr. Selznick on several occasions, at which time the latter could

b6  
b7C

not recall anyone who had endeavored to persuade him to produce a play along the lines suggested in the extortion note to his wife; that he does not recall of any similar story having been submitted to him for possible production and that he felt that Dr. Cecil Reynolds is the most logical suspect in this case. [ ] stated that no member of the Selznick family had received any additional extortion letters and felt that the "would-be" extortioner had become frightened and would not bother the family in the future.

[ ] stated that victim Anna May Wong is presently out of the Country and furnished the following physical description of the victims in this case:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Name           | IRENE MAYER SELZNICK                    |
| Age            | 31                                      |
| Height         | 5'4 1/2"                                |
| Weight         | 120#                                    |
| Hair           | Black, bobbed.                          |
| Nose           | Aquiline                                |
| Eyes           | Brown                                   |
| Complexion     | Dark                                    |
| Nationality    | Jewish                                  |
| Marital status | Married                                 |
| Residence      | 744 Alta Vista St., Los Angeles, Calif. |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Name           | ANNA MAY WONG  |
| Age            | 32   |
| Height         | 5'3"   |
| Weight         | 100#   |
| Hair           | Black  |
| Eyes           | Dark brown   |
| Complexion     | Dark   |
| Build          | Small  |
| Marital status | Single   |
| Nationality    | Oriental - Chinese                                     |
| Residence      | Park Wilshire Hotel, 2424 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. |

[ ] stated that she would immediately notify the Los Angeles field division in the event other letters are received by members of the Selznick family and if any information is developed which might lead to designating other suspects in this case.

**UNDEVELOPED LEADS:**

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION at Culver City will maintain contact with [ ] to Mr. Selznick, Selznick International Studios, for any pertinent information she may have, pending receipt of advice from the Bureau as to the determination of the Technical Laboratory with reference to the handwriting specimens of O. A. Wilson and Dr. A. M. Foote. PENDING

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Los Angeles, California  
August 14, 1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
Mrs. David Selznick  
Anna May Wong, Victims  
EXTORTION  
L. A. File #9-175

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto please find eight pages of handwriting specimens of Garman A. Wilson, 3744 Verdugo Rd., Glendale, Calif., which specimens are written on plain white paper and which were obtained from Mr. Wilson by Special Agent [redacted] on July 20, 1937. This material was dictated to Mr. Wilson, who furnished these specimens voluntarily.

Also transmitted herewith please find two pages of handwriting obtained from Dr. A. M. Foote, Valdemar Hotel, 606 So. Hope St., Los Angeles, which were also obtained by Special Agent [redacted] on July 14, 1937. Agent [redacted] has advised me that Dr. Foote was very reluctant to furnish additional handwriting specimens, stating that he felt that he was being persecuted in connection with this matter, and at first declined to furnish additional specimens. The material written by Dr. Foote was copied from the typewritten not the photostatic copy of the letter received by Dr. Foote, inasmuch as Dr. Foote would furnish additional handwriting specimens under his conditions only. He advised that this would be the last time that he would cooperate in furnishing handwriting specimens.

It is requested that the above-mentioned specimens be compared in the laboratory with the handwriting appearing on the original extortion notes mailed in this case.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Very truly yours,

J. H. LANSON

Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 16 1937 P.M.

FIL

FMS/EM  
Encls.

Copy and Specimens Retained in Laboratory

RECEIVED COPY TO INVEST UNIT  
RECEIVED TO LABORATORY

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
August 25, 1937

RECEIVED  
9-26-1-29  
80-99

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CUFFEY.  
Re: Unknown Subject; Mrs. David  
O'Sullivan and Anna May Wong - Victim

Comparison of the additional known handwriting of the Unknown Subject submitted for comparison with the handwriting of the letters and now have reached through the mail. The letters designated as Q1 and Q2 were submitted for comparison of Doctor Foote at which time I decided that the handwriting of the letters which were reached through the mail was not the handwriting of the Unknown Subject. Upon receipt of the handwriting specimens of the anonymous letters which were reached through the mail after the receipt of the handwriting specimens of the Unknown Subject, I ascribe to the handwriting of the letters which were reached through the mail as the handwriting of the Unknown Subject. On the basis of these new specimens I have therefore decided that the anonymous letters were written by Doctor Foote.

The change of opinion is that the handwriting and mailing of the anonymous letters was not the handwriting of the Unknown Subject. I was able to change his writing sufficiently to make the differences into his writing. After a long time his memory as to the manner in which the anonymous letters were written by him account for a number of the differences found between the anonymous letters and Doctor Foote. On the basis of these new specimens I have therefore decided that the anonymous letters were written by Doctor Foote.

RECORDED & INDEXED  
Respectfully,  
WGB

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

AUG 19 1937



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 18644

Laboratory Report

Case: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selenick and  
Anna May Wong - Victims;  
Extortion.

August 25, 1937

Number: 9-2639-29

Specimens:

- K13. 9 pages of known handwriting specimens of Garman A. Wilson.  
K14. 2 pages of known handwriting specimens of Doctor A. M. Foote.

Examination requested by:

Los Angeles

Date received:

8-19-37

Examination requested:

Document

Result of examination:

Examination by:

Based on a comparison of the additional known handwriting specimens of Doctor A. M. Foote with the handwriting contained on the anonymous letters designated as Q1 through Q10, the conclusion has been reached that the anonymous letters were written by Doctor Foote.

The conclusion has likewise been reached that Garman A. Wilson did not write the anonymous letters.

It has been concluded further that Doctor A. M. Foote did not write specimen Q11.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

1-Bureau  
2-Los Angeles  
1-Laboratory

9-2639-32

b6  
b7C



9-2639  
RCV:MEC:ME

September 1, 1937

AIR MAIL - ~~REGISTERED MAIL~~

Special Agent:   
Los Angeles, ~~California~~.

Dear Sir:

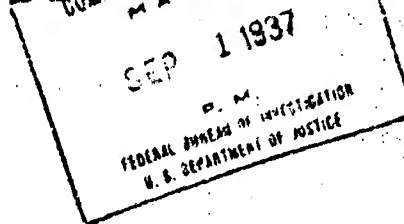
~~RE: SUBJECTS; Mrs. David Gelznick -~~  
~~Victim; Anna May Wong - Victim;~~  
~~EXTORTION.~~

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Reference is made to the report of Special Agent   
 dated at Los Angeles, August 14, 1937, concerning the  
above captioned matter.

On page 2 of this report it is observed that investigators of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office obtained various specimens of paper from  and  of the ~~Delmonico~~ Hotel, but these investigators were of the opinion that this paper did not compare favorably with the paper on which the extortion notes were written. It is believed advisable, however, to obtain these samples of paper for transmission to the Bureau so that a proper analysis of the same may be made by experts in the Technical Laboratory.

Although the experts in the Technical Laboratory have identified Dr. A. A. Foote through handwriting comparisons as the author of instant extortion communications, inasmuch as the handwriting identification is the only affirmative evidence thus far developed against Dr. Foote, it is not desired that he be taken into custody at this time. You are requested, however, to keep the Bureau informed as to all developments in this case.



Very truly yours,  
RECORDED

9-2639-33

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

SEP 1 1937  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

9-2639  
RCV:TD

Washington, D. C.  
September 9, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Unknown Subjects;  
Mrs. David Selznick,  
Anna May Wong, VICTIMS;  
EXTORTION.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. McIntire .....  
Mr. Naughton .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Pennington .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
*EW*

On March 24, 1937, both Mrs. David Selznick and Anna May Wong received through the mails threatening letters from an individual signing the name "A M Foote M D" of the Valdemar Hotel, Los Angeles, the letters demanding \$20,000 in cash from each victim on threat of bodily harm to them and their near relatives. In each instance, the writer of these letters requested that his intended victims telephone Dr. Foote just prior to coming to the hotel. He also informed that this money was to be used in the production of a motion picture in which Anna May Wong, Aimee Semple McPherson, and Dr. Harry McCoy would be members of the supporting cast.

This case was referred to the Los Angeles Office by the Police Department of Los Angeles, and investigation disclosed that Dr. Foote had also received a letter through the mails on the same date as had Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, his being signed "The Gang", in which he was informed that a sum of ransom money would be placed in his hands and that he should hold the same until contacted.

On March 25, 1937, a letter written in the same handwriting as the letters received by Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, and signed "Dr A M Foote" was received through the mails by Aimee Semple McPherson. The writer thereof stated he had just been released from custody as he had convinced police officials he had no part in the letters to Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, adding that if she felt safe in revealing this letter to police he felt quite confident he could convince them that he did not write the missive. While no threats or demands were made, the writer of this letter requested Mrs. McPherson to disguise herself and come to the room of Dr. Foote at 3:30 A.M., indicating he had a role in the movies for all.

Dr. Foote upon being interviewed by Special Agents emphatically denied any knowledge of this extortion plot. On two occasions handwriting specimens of Dr. Foote were obtained, but the experts in the Technical

*h*

9-2639-34

9-9-37

Laboratory were unable to reach a conclusion. However, upon submission of additional specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting, an affirmative finding was made, the experts indicating that Dr. Foote wrote the two extortion letters to Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, as well as the letters to Mrs. McPherson and himself.

The file reflects that specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting were obtained by investigators of the District Attorney's Office, who reported his handwriting was not similar to the writing in the letters to the victims.

This extortion case received nation-wide publicity and the story broke into print on the same date the extortion letters were received by victims Selznick and Wong and [redacted] of the Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, is quoted in the newspapers wherein his observations relative to the extortion cases are set out. According to the press, [redacted] said he is convinced that Dr. Foote was made the innocent victim of the writer of the weird and almost maniacal letters. Also from the press it appears that [redacted] Los Angeles handwriting expert, examined handwriting specimens obtained from a number of persons and in the Los Angeles Examiner of April 3, 1937 an announcement was made by [redacted] that Dr. Foote had been entirely absolved. This same press article related that handwriting experts had stated definitely that Dr. Foote did not write the notes.

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At the Valdemar Hotel, Los Angeles, an Agent endeavored to obtain samples of writing paper and handwriting specimens of guests, but was advised by [redacted] and [redacted] at the Valdemar Hotel that all specimens which they obtained were turned over to investigators of the District Attorney's Office, who informed these women that the specimens were of no value in this case. The Agent was informed by Investigator [redacted] of the District Attorney's Office, that he had offered the sum of \$50.00 to any hotel employee who would find writing paper or writing to match that of the extortion notes. A letter has been directed to the Los Angeles Office requesting that the specimens obtained by the District Attorney's Office be forwarded to the Technical Laboratory for comparison purposes.

Dr. Foote is a Spanish-American War veteran, 64 years of age, and receives a \$60.00 a month pension. He appears to be in a very delicate physical condition. The only evidence thus far developed against Dr. Foote is the handwriting identification, and it is noted that at the time the letter to Aimee Semple McPherson was posted, Dr. Foote was being

Memorandum for the Director

- 3 -

8-9-37

detained at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and could not personally have placed the letter in a mail box.

named "Myron" and that no such person as Dr. Harry McCoy is known in Los Angeles. (Original extortion letter warned Mrs. Selznick that her son Myron would be hopelessly crippled and blinded in the event \$20,000 was not paid.)

Although the experts in the Technical Laboratory have identified Dr. A. M. Foote through handwriting comparisons, as the author of instant extortion communications, inasmuch as the handwriting identification is the only affirmative evidence thus far developed against Dr. Foote, the Los Angeles Office was advised that the Bureau did not desire that he be taken into custody at this time, although said office was requested to keep the Bureau informed as to all developments in this case.

Respectfully,

  
E. A. Tamm



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

903 Pacific Commerce Bldg.  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
September 11, 1937

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Mrs. David  
Selnick - Victim; Anna May  
Wong - Victim; EXTORTION  
L. A. File #9-176

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau letter dated September 1, 1937 (9-2639) in the above entitled case in which it is requested that samples of paper, reported to have been obtained by investigators of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, from [redacted] and [redacted] of the Waldemar Hotel, Los Angeles, be transmitted to the Bureau in order that a proper analysis of the same might be made by experts in the technical laboratory.

Please be advised that Special Agent [redacted] contacted [redacted] and [redacted] investigators in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, to whom this case is assigned in that office, who advised that they do not have these paper specimens at the present time.

The above officers advise that they had obtained paper specimens from the above mentioned women but that inasmuch as these specimens were apparently not identical with the paper on which instant extortion note was written, they were destroyed.

[redacted] and [redacted] thoroughly reviewed their file on this case, after which they stated that they do not have any of these paper specimens turned over by [redacted] and [redacted] at the present time.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED & INDEXED

J. H. HANSON,  
Special Agent in Charge

9-2639-35

SEP 13 1937

FMS:IMO



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

RCV:MEC  
9-2639

August 31, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim;  
ANNA MAY WONG - Victim;  
EXTORTION.

On March 24, 1937, both Mrs. David Selznick and Anna May Wong received through the mails threatening letters from an individual signing the name "A M Foote M D" of the Valdemar Hotel, Los Angeles, the letters demanding \$20,000 in cash from each victim on threat of bodily harm to them and their near relatives. In each instance, the writer of these letters requested that his intended victims telephone Dr. Foote just prior to coming to the hotel. He also informed that this money was to be used in the production of a motion picture in which Anna May Wong, Aimee Sample McPherson, and Dr. McCoy would be members of the supporting cast.

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Dr. Foote upon being interviewed emphatically denied any knowledge of this extortion plot. On two occasions handwriting specimens of Dr. Foote were obtained, but the experts in the Technical Laboratory were unable to

9-2639-36

Memo Mr. Tamm

- 2 -

August 31, 1937

reach a conclusion. However, upon submission of additional specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting, an affirmative finding was made, the experts indicating that Dr. Foote wrote the two extortion letters to Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, as well as the letters to Mrs. McPherson and himself.

The file reflects that specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting were obtained by investigators of the District Attorney's office, who reported his handwriting was not similar to the writing in the letters to the victims.

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Dr. Foote is a Spanish-American War veteran, 64 years of age, and receives a \$60 a month pension. He appears to be in a very delicate physical condition. The only evidence thus far developed against Dr. Foote is the handwriting identification, and it is noted that at the time the letter to Aimee Semple McPherson was posted, Dr. Foote was being detained at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office and could not personally have placed the letter in a mail box.

It might be mentioned also that the David Selznicks have no son named "Myron" and that no such person as Dr. Harry McCoy is known in Los Angeles. (Original extortion letter warned Mrs. Selznick that her son Myron would be hopelessly crippled and blinded in the event \$20,000 was not paid.)

It appears that a quantity of paper from the Valdemar Hotel was obtained by the District Attorney's office, and a letter is being directed to the Los Angeles Office requesting that said specimens be forwarded to the Technical Laboratory, with the further request that the Bureau be kept advised of developments in this case.

Respectfully,

[ ]

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b7C

August 31, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim;  
ANNA MAY WONG - Victim;  
EXTORTION.

On March 24, 1937, both Mrs. David Selznick and Anna May Wong, received through the mails threatening letters from an individual signing the name "A. V. Foote M. D." of the Waldemar Hotel, Los Angeles, the writer requested that his intended victims telephone Dr. Foote prior to coming to the hotel. He also informed that this money was to be used in the production of a motion picture in which Anna May Wong, Aimee Semple McPherson, and Dr. McCoy would be members of the supporting cast.

This case was referred to the Los Angeles Office by the Police Department of Los Angeles, and investigation disclosed that Dr. Foote had also received a letter through the mails on the same date as had Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, his being signed "The Gang," in which he was informed that a sum of ransom money would be placed in his hands and that he should hold the same until contacted.

On March 23, 1937, a letter written in the same handwriting as the letters received by Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, and signed "Dr. A. M. Foote," was received through the mails by Aimee Semple McPherson. The writer thereof stated he had just been released from custody as he had convinced police officials he had no part in the letters to Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, adding that if she felt safe in revealing this letter to police he felt quite confident he could convince them that he did not write the missive. The writer of this letter requested Mrs. McPherson to disguise herself and come to the room of Dr. Foote at 3:30 a.m., indicating he had a role in the movies for all.

Dr. Foote upon being interviewed emphatically denied any knowledge of this extortion plot. On two occasions handwriting specimens of Dr. Foote were obtained, but the experts in the Technical Laboratory were unable to

RECORDED

INDEXED

9-2639-36

FILED  
OCT 1 1937



Memo Mr. Tamm

- 2 -

August 31, 1937

reach a conclusion. However, upon submission of additional specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting, an affirmative finding was made, the experts indicating that Dr. Foote wrote the two extortion letters to Mrs. Selznick and Miss Wong, as well as the letters to Mrs. McPherson and himself.

The file reflects that specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting were obtained by investigators of the District Attorney's office, who reported his handwriting was not similar to the writing in the letters to the victims.

At the Waldemar Hotel, Los Angeles, an Agent endeavored to obtain samples of writing paper and handwriting specimens of guests. The Agent was informed by Investigator [ ] of the District Attorney's office that he had offered the sum of \$50 to any hotel employee who would find writing paper or writing to match that of the extortion notes.

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Dr. Foote is a Spanish-American War veteran, 64 years of age, and receives a \$60 a month pension. He appears to be in a very delicate physical condition. The only evidence thus far developed against Dr. Foote is the handwriting identification, and it is noted that at the time the letter to Aimee Sample McPherson was posted, Dr. Foote was being detained at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office and could not personally have placed the letter in a mail box.

It might be mentioned also that the David Selznicks have no son named "Myron" and that no such person as Dr. Harry McCoy is known in Los Angeles. (Original extortion letter warned Mrs. Selznick that her son Myron would be hopelessly crippled and blinded in the event \$20,000 was not paid.)

It appears that a quantity of paper from the Waldemar Hotel was obtained by the District Attorney's office, and a letter is being directed to the Los Angeles Office requesting that said specimens be forwarded to the Technical Laboratory, with the further request that the Bureau be kept advised of developments in this case.

Respectfully,

[ ]

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EAT:WG

September 13, 1937.

Time: 10:15 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: WALLACE BEERY EXTORTION CASE  
ANNA MAE HONG EXTORTION CASE

Mr. Hanson at Los Angeles called and advised with regard to breaking the [redacted] case, we do not have sufficient evidence, since stationary identical to that found in [redacted] house was also found under [redacted] house and the handwriting was on the anonymous postal card and not on the extortion note. Mr. Hanson also stated the same situation exists with regard to the Anna Mae Hong case, in that we do not have sufficient evidence against Dr. Foote.

I told Mr. Hanson the only thing to do is to keep plugging away trying to develop information in these cases.

He suggested that Agent [redacted] or an Agent well versed in conversation go into the hotel where Dr. Foote is staying in the hope that Foote may have said something to an employee or someone else residing there.

I told him to go ahead with this plan.

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

E. A. Tamm

9-2639-37

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SEP 14 1937 P.M.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 9-3028-28

RCV:TD  
7-2639 - 38

December 21, 1937

Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Salsnick,  
et al VICTIMS;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

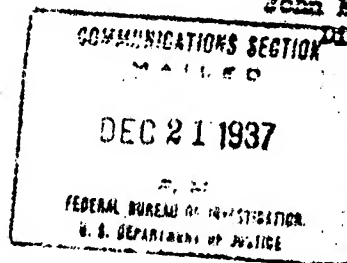
Reference is made to your letter dated November 29,  
1937, requesting authority to close the above captioned case  
pending receipt of additional letters by the victims.

From a memorandum contained in the file relative to  
a telephone conversation had by you with Mr. E. A. Tamm, it  
appears that a suggestion was made to have an Agent well versed  
in conversation go into the hotel where Dr. Foote is staying,  
in the hope of learning whether Foote may have said something  
to an employee or someone else residing there concerning this  
case.

Please advise whether this plan was followed.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California  
November 29, 1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selznick, et al,  
Victims - EXTORTION  
L. A. File 9-175

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent  
[redacted] dated at Los Angeles, 11-29-37.

Inasmuch as all investigation has been completed  
and the Bureau has directed that the handwriting identifi-  
cation of suspect Foote is insufficient to warrant institu-  
ting prosecutive action against him, it is requested that  
authority be granted to close this case pending receipt of  
additional letters by the victims.

Very truly yours,

*J. H. Hanson*  
J. H. HANSON  
Special Agent in Charge

FMS:AB

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

9-2637-38  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 3 1937 A.M.  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LOS ANGELES

172/137  
ack-12CV

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

|  |                                   |   |                             |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>LOS ANGELES</b>   | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>11-29-37</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>9-13-37</b> | L.A. FILE NO. <b>9-175</b>  |
| TITLE<br><b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT;<br/>Mrs. David Selznick - Victim;<br/>Anna May Wong - Victim.</b> |                                   |   | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>AB</b> |
| CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>EXTORTION</b>  |                                   |   | <b>b6<br/>b7C</b>           |

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Laboratory Report reflects handwriting appearing on instant extortion letters identified as the handwriting of DR. A. M. FOOTE, Los Angeles, California. DR. FOOTE voluntarily appeared at Los Angeles Bureau office 9-13-37, but refused to admit authorship of instant extortion letters under intensive interrogation.

- P -

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [redacted]  
Los Angeles, 8-14-37 and Bureau  
letters dated 8-25-37 and 9-1-37,  
Bureau File (9-2639).

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## DETAILS:

Reference letter from the Bureau dated August 25, 1937 transmitted Laboratory Report of the same date, which reflects that the Technical Laboratory has definitely reached the conclusion that the extortion letters written in instant case were not written by GARMAN A. WILSON, but that DR. A. M. FOOTE is the author of these letters.

Reference letter from the Bureau dated September 1, 1937 instructs that although the Technical Laboratory has identified DR. A. M. FOOTE

|  |                              |      |            |
|--|------------------------------|------|------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><i>J. A. [signature]</i><br>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |      |            |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>3 Bureau<br>3 Los Angeles                             | 9                            | 2639 | .39        |
|  | DEC 3 - P.M.                 |      | DEC 4 1937 |
|  | STAT. SECT.                  |      |            |



through handwriting comparisons, as the author of instant extortion letters, it was not desired that DR. FOOTE be taken in custody, inasmuch as the only affirmative evidence developed so far against DR. FOOTE has been the handwriting identification.

On Saturday, September 11, 1937, DR. A. M. FOOTE telephonically contacted Special Agent in Charge J. E. Hanson, stating that GARMAN A. WILSON had advised him on the previous day that he, WILSON, had been brought to the Los Angeles Bureau office for questioning and had been required to submit handwriting specimens in connection with an extortion case; that inasmuch as he had suggested WILSON as a suspect in this matter, he was curious to know whether WILSON'S handwriting had been identified with the handwriting appearing in the extortion letters in this case.

Special Agent in Charge Hanson thereupon suggested to Dr. FOOTE that he come to the Los Angeles office on the following Monday morning, at which time the various angles of this case could be discussed, to which DR. FOOTE agreed.

On Monday, September 13, 1937, DR. FOOTE voluntarily appeared at the Los Angeles office, as previously arranged, and was questioned extensively by Special Agents [redacted] and reporting Agent until 12:00 noon of that day, during which period of time DR. FOOTE consistently denied having written instant extortion letters or having had any connection with the same. DR. FOOTE was advised that his handwriting had been identified as being similar to the handwriting appearing on the extortion letters mailed, in spite of which DR. FOOTE continued to deny his being responsible for these letters.

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Inasmuch as further questioning appeared useless at this time, and also in view of the fact that DR. FOOTE was becoming nervous, on account of his poor physical condition, questioning was discontinued and DR. FOOTE was allowed to go home upon assurance that he would come to the Los Angeles office voluntarily whenever he was requested to do so.

Inasmuch as all investigation has been completed and the Bureau has directed that the handwriting identification of suspect FOOTE is insufficient to warrant instituting prosecutive action against him, a letter is being directed to the Bureau requesting authorization to close this case pending receipt of any additional letters by victims.

- P E N D I N G -

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California  
December 30, 1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick,  
et al, Victims;  
Extortion  
L. A. File 9-175

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 21, 1937, pertaining to the letter of this office to the Bureau dated November 29, 1937, requesting authority to close the above-captioned case (Bureau file 9-2639).

This is to advise that the letter of the Los Angeles Office dated November 29, 1937, was transmitted to the Bureau in error because I had failed to make a notation in this file concerning my telephonic conversation with Mr. Tamm, at which time I indicated that in my opinion the only thing that might be done in this case would be to have an Agent live at the hotel where Dr. Foote is staying in the hope of being able to engage Dr. Foote in conversations which might ultimately lead to securing admissions from Dr. Foote about this case. As I stated to Mr. Tamm at the time of this conversation, in my opinion Special Agent J. G. Findlay of this office, who is an elderly man, would be my selection for an assignment of this type. I have had this in mind but because Special Agent Findlay has been engaged exclusively in the investigation involving the Fox Westcoast Theatres, Inc., et al, Anti-trust, it had not been possible up to this time to assign him to this matter.

RECORDED & INDEXED

If the Bureau does not advise to the contrary, it is my intention to have Special Agent Findlay stop at this hotel for probably a period of a week at some time in the near future, enabling him to spend the evenings in the lobby of the hotel in an effort to make the acquaintance of Dr. Foote and to then endeavor to draw him out.

Very truly yours,

J. H. LANSON  
Special Agent in Charge.

JHN:RG

RCV:MEC

9-2639

March 11, 1938.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Mrs. David Salznick -  
Victim; Anna May Wong - Victim.  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of December 30,  
1937, advising that further efforts would be made to identify  
Dr. Foote as the writer of the extortion communications in  
the above-entitled case.

Please advise what action has been taken subsequent  
to your letter referred to hereinabove.

Very truly yours,  
For the Director,

Harold Nathan,  
Assistant Director.

RECORDED

SEARCHED INDEXED OF  
SERIALIZED

MAR 11 1938

FORWARDED BY AIR MAIL  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

9-2639-41

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 14 1938 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

*W. H. K.*



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 9-175

|   |                          |   |  |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>Los Angeles, Calif.   | DATE WHEN MADE<br>4-1-38 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>3/18, 19, 25, 26, 38 | REPORT MADE BY<br>J. G. FINDLAY - M.O. |
| TITLE<br>UNKNOWN SUBJECT;<br>Mrs. David Selznick - Victim;<br>Anna May Wong - Victim. |                          |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION         |

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MRS. FRANK McCOY, wife of DR. FRANK McCOY, received phone call on or about 3-24-37 instructing her to have \$10,000 in cash ready to deliver on short notice, in default of which her daughter would be severely injured, and informing her that she would hear from him again by phone. She did not receive any written communication and did not hear from this party again by phone. DR. McCOY knows DR. CECIL E. REYNOLDS and DR. A. M. FOOTE, but has had no personal dealings with either. Handwriting experts in Los Angeles advised the State District Attorney's office that the handwriting of DR. FOOTE was not identical with the handwriting in the extortion notes.

- P -

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, dated 11-29-37; Letter from the Bureau dated 3-11-38 (file 9-2639).

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|  |                         |                              |            |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]                    | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |            |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>3 - Bureau<br>3 - Los Angeles |                         | 9 12639-42                   | APR 7 1938 |
|  |                         | APR - 5 PM                   |            |
|  |                         | ONE STAM. SECT               |            |



DETAILS:

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Agent ascertained that the DR. McCOY referred to in one of the extortion notes and the reports in the file is DR. FRANK McCOY, who has a large business establishment at 1151 West 6th Street, Los Angeles. He gives a health lecture over the radio every day. The following investigation was made by Agent to ascertain the facts relative to the belief that the party who wrote the extortion notes in this matter also wrote extortion notes to DR. McCOY.

MRS. FRANK McCOY, 683 So. Ardmore St., Los Angeles, telephone EXposition 6783, was interviewed. She stated that about the middle of the forenoon of March 24, 1937, when she answered the phone, a man's voice was heard over it and the substance of the message was as follows:

"You had better get \$10,000 ready and be prepared to place it in your mail box when you receive instructions to do so or we'll give you the same that Buron Fitts got. If you do not give us the money your daughter and her husband will get what Fitts got. You'll hear from us again within the next few days. Do not tell the police nor anyother officers."

(A short time before this incident State District Attorney Buron Fitts had been shot in the arm late one night when he was driving up his driveway to his home.)

MRS. McCOY stated that at this point the ear piece of the phone was slammed up as if the party was in a hurry or as one might do if he had suddenly suspected that someone had gotten on a branch phone.

MRS. McCOY stated that she did not receive any other message over the phone and that she did not receive any note or letter of any sort. She stated that she immediately communicated this information to DR. McCOY and [redacted] by phone and also with her brother-in-law, WALTER KRUG, retired police captain; that her sister, MRS. KRUG, was in the McCOY home at the time; that DR. McCOY and [redacted] and Captain KRUG soon arrived at the home and they communicated with BURON FITTS' office and two officers came to the house.

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(The details of what took place are being set forth in [redacted] statement and will not be repeated here.)

[redacted] stated that he was DR. McCOY'S [redacted] in March, 1937 at the time of this incident. He stated that MRS. FRANK McCOY called the office and told them that she had received a mysterious phone call in which the party had instructed her to have \$10,000. in cash ready and she would receive further communication by telephone relative to procedure; that she was not to tell the police and was not to be worried about the matter and instructed that in case she failed to comply with instructions or reported the matter to the police some great calamity would "fall upon her" [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that he and DR. McCOY went from the office to the McCOY home at once and to the best of his recollection this was about noontime and was probably March 24, 1937. When they got to the house, 683 So. Ardmore, Mrs. McCOY, [redacted] MRS. WALTER KRUG and her husband, WALTER KRUG, an ex-Captain of Los Angeles Police, were there. They talked the matter over and decided to have WALTER KRUG contact District Attorney FITTS' [redacted] and see what could be done. In a short time, two investigators [redacted] and [redacted] came out and sized up the situation and said that they would make arrangements through the telephone office to have any phone calls traced that might come through and one of the officers returned to his office and the other one remained at the McCOY home with CAPTAIN KRUG for several days. So far as he remembers, no threatening calls came through after they reached the McCOY home. He stated that DR. McCOY took his [redacted] out to the Uplifter's Club in Santa Monica Canyon and kept her out there for several days and that DR. McCOY stayed out there with her.

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[redacted] stated that it was reported to them by the District Attorney's investigators and he believes that it also appeared in the newspapers, that DR. A. M. FOOTE had been arrested by the District Attorney's office and the officer was withdrawn from DR. McCOY'S home and they did not hear anything further about the matter.

[redacted] stated that he was with DR. MC-COY as his [redacted] for about four years and stated that he never heard of DR. FOOTE before this incident and that he has not heard of him nor from him since that time. He stated that he did not have any suspect in mind but he stated that he heard the remark that DR. CECIL REYNOLDS was a dope fiend, a Shakespearean actor, and a self-made criminologist, and had been an actor in pictures, taking the part of the villain and that he could very well be the instigator of a scheme of this nature.

[redacted] at present the [redacted] for DR. FRANK McCOY, when interviewed stated that he remembered the incident of the publicity in the newspapers on March 24, and 25, 1937, in which it was stated that MRS. DAVID SELZNICK and ANNA MAY WONG had received letters through the mail demanding \$20,000. cash from each and threatening bodily harm to them or their relatives or any persons interfering with the demands made in the letters. He stated that he also remembered that AIMEE SEMPLE McPHERSON received a similar letter supposedly from the same party or parties.

He stated that on the same day that the articles appeared in the newspapers, MRS. FRANK McCOY, [redacted] received a phone call in which she was instructed to have \$10,000 ready to deliver to the caller when she heard from him the next day. The substance of the message over the phone was as follows:

"Get \$10,000 ready to deliver when instructed over the phone when and where to make delivery. If you fail to do so your [redacted]

[redacted] will be treated just like Baron Fitts was treated." (Baron Fitts had been shot on March 7, 1937 late at night as he was driving up the driveway to his home.)

He stated that he, DR. McCOY, WALTER KRUG and [redacted] soon gathered at the McCOY home at 663 So. Ardmore, and Dr. McCOY took [redacted] to the Uplifter's Club in Santa Monica Canyon and stayed there with her for several days; that WALTER KRUG, who was a retired Captain of Los Angeles Police, contacted [redacted] of the State District Attorney's office and [redacted] sent



two men out there [ ] and [ ] to Dr. McCOY'S home to investigate and one of these stayed at the McCOY home with KRUG for two or three days. The other officer left after he had made an investigation and stated that he would make arrangements with the phone company to trace any calls that came in. In a couple of days the other officer told them that the office had made an arrest and the other guard was recalled and they heard nothing further about this matter.

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DR. FRANK McCOY, 1151 West 6th Street, when interviewed stated in substance practically the same as [ ] and [ ] so that portion of his statement will not be repeated. He stated that he had heard of DR. A. M. FOOTE but stated that he had never had any personal contact with him and so far as he could remember did not believe that he had ever seen DR. FOOTE.

DR. McCOY stated that he has had a slight acquaintance with DR. CECIL E. REYNOLDS but that he has never associated with him in any way; that he has heard that REYNOLDS plays the part of the villain in some crime pictures and also in other pictures. He plays the part of dope fiends and other similar parts. He stated that he heard that REYNOLDS is suffering from some mental derangement and that he is perhaps a dope fiend himself, but he stated that he did not want to be quoted on this as he had no information about it of his own personal knowledge.

DR. McCOY stated that he has no personal acquaintance with DAVID SELZNICK, ANNA MAY WONG, or AIMEE SEMPLE McPHERSON and he has not been able to figure out anyone who might place him in the same company with them for any purpose. He stated that he has never at any time had a suspect in this case definitely in mind.

WALTER KRUG, 1367 Saginaw St., Eagle Rock, phone Albany 5476, was interviewed. He stated that he was at DR. McCOY'S home as stated above in this report and that he contacted [ ] of the State District Attorney's office, and told him of the facts in this case, and [ ] sent [ ] and [ ] out to DR. McCOY'S home to make the investigation, the substance of which has been set out before in this report.

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MR. KRUG stated that he also knows that the samples of the handwriting of DR. FOOTE and DR. REYNOLDS have been compared with the handwriting in the extortion notes by [redacted] of the Los Angeles Police Department, and [redacted] a private handwriting expert, and they have both reported that neither FOOTE nor REYNOLDS wrote the extortion notes.

[redacted] informed agent that the District Attorney's office had no additional information in this matter but stated that [redacted] of the Los Angeles Police Department and [redacted] handwriting experts, had rendered an opinion that the handwriting in the extortion notes was not identical with the handwriting of DR. A. M. FOOTE.

[redacted] who was [redacted] of the Bureau of Investigation in the District Attorney's office, at that time, is now [redacted]

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

At Los Angeles, California will conduct appropriate investigation at the Val de Mar Hotel, 606 So. Hope St., in an effort to get some admission from DR. A. M. FOOTE that he wrote the extortion notes.

- PENDING -

9-2639

August 18, 1938

CHC:EAM

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Victim;  
Anna May Wong, Victim;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

A review of the Bureau file in connection with this matter indicates that the most recent report submitted by your office is that of Special Agent J. G. Findlay, dated April 1, 1938, at Los Angeles, California.

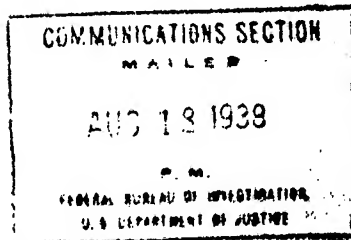
In view of the above mentioned delinquency, you are requested to place this case in line for investigative attention within the near future. The Bureau is very desirous that the investigation of this case be pressed vigorously in order that the same may be brought to a logical successful termination as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

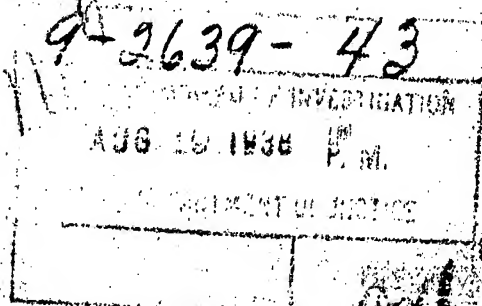
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

*Allen Pro Chicago  
9/14/38 chc  
per X*

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Mr. Tolson.....   |
| Mr. Nathan.....   |
| Mr. Tamm.....     |
| Mr. Clegg.....    |
| Mr. Coffey.....   |
| Mr. Crowl.....    |
| Mr. Dawsey.....   |
| Mr. Egan.....     |
| Mr. Foxworth..... |
| Mr. Glavin.....   |
| Mr. Ladd.....     |
| Mr. Nichols.....  |
| Mr. Rosen.....    |
| Mr. Tracy.....    |
| Miss Gandy.....   |



RECORDED



9-2639

September 17, 1938.

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Victim;  
Anna May Wong, Victim;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

A review of the Bureau case file with regard to the above entitled matter indicates that the most recent report submitted by your office is that of Special Agent J. G. Findlay, dated April 1, 1938, at Los Angeles, California, same being now very delinquent in your office.

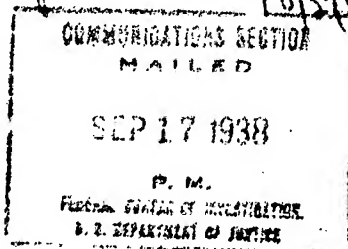
It is noted that you advised by letter dated December 30, 1937, concerning your plan to have Special Agent J. G. Findlay conduct a discreet and undercover investigation at the Valdemar Hotel, Los Angeles, in an attempt to obtain additional evidence and possible admissions from suspect Dr. A. M. Foote in connection with instant extortion attempt, it being noted that the handwriting of Dr. Foote has been identified as being identical with that appearing on the extortion letters involved in instant matter.

Inasmuch as the Bureau file fails to reflect that any action has been taken by your office with regard to the above described investigative procedure to date, you are requested to advise the Bureau as to the action undertaken along this line by your office. In this connection, the Bureau would like to point out that extortion investigations of this kind should be furnished thorough and expeditious investigative attention from the outset inasmuch as the element of time would appear to be the very essence of such investigations. The Bureau desires that this matter be furnished immediate attention by your office in order that the necessary investigation may be vigorously pressed toward an early logical conclusion.

RECORDED

Very truly yours,  
For the Director

Harold Nathan  
Assistant Director



SEP

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b7C

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Crowl .....  
Mr. Donohoe .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. McIntire .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
September 24, 1938

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selsnick - Victim;  
Anna May Wong - Victim;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of September 17, 1938 in which the Bureau called to the attention of this Division a delinquency in the above entitled case. 9-2639.

This is to advise that the Los Angeles office has not overlooked the assignment of having Special Agent J. G. FINDLAY conduct a discreet undercover investigation at the Valdemar Hotel, Los Angeles, in an attempt to obtain additional evidence and possible admissions from suspect DR. A. M. FOOTE. However, because of the pressure of public business in this office, particularly because of the work that Agent FINDLAY has been doing on the general motion picture investigation, as well as handling other assignments, he had postponed this action.

However, the general motion picture case is rapidly nearing a conclusion and within the next several days it is expected that Special Agent FINDLAY will be able to undertake the investigation that was suggested and the Bureau will be promptly advised of the results thereof.

Very truly yours,

JMH:MO  
9-175

*Letter Los Angeles*  
*10/24/38*

J. H. HANSON,

Special Agent in Charge.

9-2639-45

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&  
INDEXED

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| SEP 25 1938                |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE |



9-2639

October 24, 1938.

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selenick, Victim;  
Anna May Wong, Victim;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to previous Bureau correspondence calling your attention to the extreme delinquency of this matter, it being noted that you advised by letter dated September 24, 1938, that Special Agent J. O. Findlay would be able to conduct an appropriate undercover investigation at the Valdeemar Hotel, Los Angeles, within several days.

The Bureau file fails to reflect that the desired action has been taken by your office to date, and it is requested that you advise the Bureau as to when the investigation of this matter will be completed.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nathan  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Crowl  
Mr. Dwyer  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

RECEIVED  
OCT 24 1938

RECORDED

9-2639-46

OCT 25 1938

JF

acc

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Los Angeles, California  
October 31, 1938

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim,  
ANNA MAY WONG - Victim.  
EXTORTION

Replying to your letter dated October 24, 1938, (9-2639) relative to the above-entitled matter, please be advised that on October 20, 1938, Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY began an investigation of this matter by registering at the Val De Mar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, where DR. A. M. FOOTE, the suspect, resides, the hope and object being to have Agent FINDLAY become personally acquainted with DR. FOOTE without DR. FOOTE'S knowing the identity of Agent FINDLAY in the hope that DR. FOOTE might be engaged in conversations which in time might lead to securing admissions from DR. FOOTE about this case.

Agent FINDLAY registered at the Val De Mar Hotel on October 20, 1938, and stayed there the nights of October 20 to 22, inclusive, remaining in the lobby of the hotel most of the time from 5:00 to 10:00 P.M. and from 7:00 to 9:30 A.M. During this time he ascertained that DR. FOOTE remains at the hotel in his room on the first floor, which is on a narrow hallway leading off from the lobby. DR. FOOTE stays in his room almost all of the time, being a semi-invalid. He apparently gets up about 7:00 in the morning and he does not go to breakfast, but apparently has something to eat in his room. He goes to the corner and gets a newspaper, returns to the hotel, speaks a few words to the hotel clerk (a lady) and returns to his room, and with but one exception, has remained in his room until 9:00 or 9:30 A.M., at which time Agent FINDLAY would leave for other work. On this one occasion DR. FOOTE went to Pershing Square where he sat on a park bench and read his paper.

DR. FOOTE talked to no one in the lobby except one old man on Saturday morning, October 22, 1938, who apparently had called on the telephone before he came to the hotel.

RECORDED

INDEXED

9-2639-47  
K Q D

Director

-2-

Oct. 31, 1938

Re: Bureau file 9-2639

was in the lobby expecting him when he arrived. They talked for about fifteen minutes and the old man left and DR. FOOTE returned to his room.

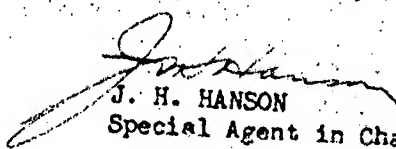
Agent FINDLAY checked out of the hotel on October 23, 1938, as he had to go to Santa Maria, California, on another case. He checked into the hotel again on October 28, 1938, and is now stopping at the hotel.

On Saturday evening, October 29, DR. FOOTE had several telephone calls between 6:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. On one occasion he was talking to the lady clerk at the desk when the call came in, and he went to his room to answer the call. On another occasion he was standing in the lobby and went to his room to answer the call, and did not return to the lobby.

On Sunday, October 30, Agent FINDLAY remained in the lobby of the hotel from 7:00 A.M. to 8:45 and did not see DR. FOOTE. Agent FINDLAY was on duty at the Bureau Office from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. He returned to the hotel about 6:00 P.M. and remained in the lobby until after 10:00 P.M., but did not see DR. FOOTE during that time.

So far, no appropriate opportunity has presented itself to Agent FINDLAY to engage DR. FOOTE in conversation without it being too apparent that the contact was forced upon him. These efforts to contact DR. FOOTE will be continued until some contact has been established.

Very truly yours,

  
J. H. HANSON

Special Agent in Charge

JGF/hlk  
9-175  
Air Mail

GRC:MEO

7-2639

November 30, 1938

AIR MAIL

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim;  
ANNA MAY WONG - Victim.  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated October 31, 1938, containing information with regard to the investigative activity undertaken by Special Agent James G. Findlay, with reference to this Agent's undercover inquiry at the Val De Mar Hotel in Los Angeles in an effort to obtain additional information as to Dr. A. M. Foote's implication in this case, in view of the previous identification of Dr. Foote's handwriting by the Technical Laboratory.

The Bureau desires that you advise immediately as to the results of the additional investigative activity by Special Agent Findlay in the above regard as indicated in your letter. It is desired that the investigation of this matter be brought to a logical conclusion as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

RECORDED

9-2639-48

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| NOV 1 1938                      |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |

*[Handwritten signature]*

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson     | ..... |
| Mr. Nathan     | ..... |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg      | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey     | ..... |
| Mr. Crowl      | ..... |
| Mr. Dawsey     | ..... |
| Mr. Egan       | ..... |
| Mr. Foxworth   | ..... |
| Mr. Glavin     | ..... |
| Mr. Harbo      | ..... |
| Mr. Lester     | ..... |
| Mr. McGuire    | ..... |
| Mr. Nichols    | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn Tamm | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy      | ..... |
| Miss Gandy     | ..... |



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

|  |                            |  |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>Los Angeles, California  | DATE WHEN MADE<br>11-29-38 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>10/20-22, 27-31/38<br>11/1-5, 9-11/38<br>17-29/38 | REPORT MADE BY<br>J. G. FINDLAY<br>mch |
| TITLE<br>UNKNOWN SUBJECT;<br>MRS. DAVID HELZNICK - Victim;<br>ANNA MAI WONG - Victim |                            |  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION.        |

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Agent registered at the Val de Mar Hotel on October 20, 1938, and has remained there continuously with the exceptions of October 23rd to 26th, and November 6th to 9th and 15th and 16th, with the object in view of becoming acquainted with suspect DR. A. M. FOOTE and ultimately getting his confidence; with the view that DR. FOOTE might make some admission that would reveal his knowledge of or connection with the instant matter. Agent has had a number of short talks with DR. FOOTE but DR. FOOTE is very nervous and remains only a few minutes at one place. So far only impersonal matters such as politics and current news have been discussed. DR. FOOTE remains at the hotel almost continuously and in his room most of the time as he is a semi-invalid and is not employed.

P.

## Reference:

Letter from the Los Angeles Division to the Bureau dated 10-31-38.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><i>J. G. Findlay</i><br>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES<br>9-12639-49<br>DEC-5 AM |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>3-Bureau<br>3-Los Angeles.                        |  |

Details:

At Los Angeles, California

Agent first registered at the Val de Mar Hotel on October 20, 1938 and remained there three nights, making it a point to be up before 7:00 o'clock in the morning before suspect DR. FOOTE arose. Agent remained in the lobby or about the hotel until 9:00 or 9:30 A.M., at which time Agent goes about other duties during the day. Agent returned to the hotel between 5:00 and 5:30 P.M. and remained in the lobby and about the hotel until 10:00 or 11:00 P.M., reading books and newspapers and engaging in conversation with the Hotel employees and guests.

This procedure has been deemed advisable and has the approval of the Special Agent in Charge. The Val de Mar Hotel is a small hotel with a long lobby extending from the entrance at 606 South Hope Street to the rear - a distance of 60 feet or more where the clerk's desk is located. On the right hand side of the lobby as one enters on the ground floor are located a few rooms, possibly eight or ten rooms, and DR. FOOTE occupies one of these rooms; the others seem to be occupied by some elderly men and elderly women who appear to be permanent guests at this Hotel. A narrow hallway leads off of the main lobby to these quarters. The remainder of the hotel is located on the second and third floors. The rate for transients is \$1.00 per day.

The employees of the Hotel are [redacted]

[redacted] there in the evenings.

[redacted] and is

[redacted] is at the hotel a good portion of the time and often acts as [redacted] and answers the telephone at times.

[redacted] at the Hotel and [redacted] He does not stay at the Hotel.

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MRS. WILNER, a guest occupying one of the rooms on the ground floor of the Hotel is a lady past middle age. She seems to have nothing to do to occupy her time and often answers the telephone and attends to the clerk's duties in the absence of the clerk.

R. H. SAYERS, a man more than 70 years of age has been a regular roomer at the Hotel for more than five years. He is an ex-oil man and drilled some of the wells at the old Sunset and McKittrick fields nearly forty years ago. This fact gave Agent a good opportunity of engaging MR. SAYERS in conversation.

JACOB TANNER, about 71 years of age rooms at the Hotel and is a friend and associate of MR. SAYERS and of the suspect DR. A. M. FOOTE.

DR. FOOTE, the suspect, has one of the rooms on the ground floor. He has nothing to do. He remains at the Hotel almost continuously, both day and night; he appears in the lobby of the hotel about the same time every morning, approximately 7:30 A.M. He usually speaks to the different regular guests, some of whom are on hand before that time; this is especially true of MR. SAYERS. Quite often DR. FOOTE does not go out of the Hotel at that time and it is believed that he has something to eat in his room. When he goes out to breakfast, he almost invariably goes to a little restaurant located at 619 West Sixth Street which is less than a block from the Hotel. Sometimes he goes to Clifton's Cafeteria on South Olive Street which is about three blocks away. He has also gone to the Y.M.C.A. a time or two, after which he returned to the hotel and went immediately to his room invariably remaining until between 8:20 and 8:35 A.M., at which time the morning mail arrives. There is some mail for DR. FOOTE almost every morning. The clerk buzzes his room and he comes out in a great rush. With only one or two exceptions he has returned to his room before opening his mail. About half the time he does not appear again before 9:00 or 9:30 A.M.

Agent left the Hotel by 9:30 A.M. for the office and the regular work of the day. DR. FOOTE usually gets a paper when he goes out to breakfast and takes the paper to his room. He leaves the paper in his room and when he gets his mail he returns to his room. If he gets no mail, he usually comes into the lobby of the Hotel and sits in an easy chair usually off to himself and reads his paper.

On one occasion he went to Pershing Square two blocks away and sat on a park bench where he read his paper.

Agent checked into the Hotel the second time on October 27, 1938 and remained there until November 5, 1938; during the first stay at the Hotel Agent talked to MR. R. H. SAYERS on several occasions; during the second stay, Agent talked two or more times a day with MR. SAYERS, usually about oil development, politics and the Los Angeles Graft Scandal, the foremost fires presently burning in Los Angeles and other matters of that sort. MR. SAYERS is a very ardent admirer of DR. TOWNSEND. It is always easy to get him started talking on that subject. He is also very much agitated over the investigation being conducted by the Congressman DIES Committee, and will discuss any phase of this matter at any time. He is also enthusiastic over the Nazi situation and reads everything he can find about this.

On at least two occasions, MR. SAYERS and DR. FOOTE would be sitting in the lobby talking when Agent would come into the Hotel in the evening. Agent made it a point to sit as near to them as possible or to speak directly to MR. SAYERS. On both occasions DR. FOOTE immediately got up and went to his room. His actions really gave the impression that DR. FOOTE was suspicious or that it was possible he saw Agent at the office when he was at the office in connection with this investigation when it first arose.

Agent had spoken to DR. FOOTE on several occasions and he had spoken to Agent on several occasions up to November 5, 1938, but no real conversation had taken place.



Agent checked into the Hotel the third time on November 9th and stayed until November 14th. On the evening of November 14, 1938, MR. SAYERS, DR. FOOTE and Agent had a three-cornered conversation for about fifteen minutes about election results. DR. FOOTE talked freely and expressed himself very fully about the outcome of the election in Iowa and in Indiana. He stated that he had lived in both of these States. He also stated that he knew Governor Merriam years ago in Iowa.

On November 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th, Agent had short talks with DR. FOOTE about the election and about the Grand Jury Investigation which is attracting much publicity and attention. In no instance except the one above indicated has a talk lasted more than five minutes and in every instance DR. FOOTE has been called away to the telephone or for other reasons has apparently become nervous and gotten up and gone to his room. However, Agent has observed closely, and has noticed that DR. FOOTE does not talk very long to anyone except to MR. SAYERS.

During this time of Agent's stay at the Hotel, DR. FOOTE went to the Los Angeles Theatre once in the evening and to the "Elijah" at the First Methodist Church, once on a practice night and once on November 12th which was the night of the entertainment.

Agent checked in at the Hotel again on November 17th and is still at this Hotel on this date, November 29th.

On each day Agent has had a few words with DR. FOOTE. On November 18, 1938 [redacted] of Los Angeles resigned. This resignation was the topic of Agent's conversation with DR. FOOTE on that evening, but as usual DR. FOOTE departed in about five minutes.

On November 23rd, the topic of conversation was about [redacted] being indicted by the County Grand Jury. On the evening of November 24th, there was music in the lobby for an hour from 9:00 to 10:00 P.M. There was much comment but very little individual talk.

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[ ] On the evening of November 25, 1938, [ ] a cattle rancher from Texas was at the Hotel in the lobby and for more than an hour he talked about what he had seen in Germany while he was there after the Armistice and before the peace treaty was signed.

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After [ ] was through talking, there was considerable general discussion among all parties. Agent talked with DR. FOOTE, but the conversation was about [ ] discussion and Nazi matters generally.

On November 26th and 27, 1938, Agent had a short talk with DR. FOOTE, the topic of conversation being the forest fires which are raging in the mountains on two sides of the City of Los Angeles at this time.

In the evenings, DR. FOOTE takes nearly all of his meals at the Clifton Cafeteria on Olive Street between Sixth and Seventh.

The foregoing is the result of Agent's efforts to date. The conclusion is that DR. FOOTE is a sick man who associates very little with anyone. DR. FOOTE talks very little to anyone except MR. SAYERS. Agent has not seen DR. FOOTE talk to anyone except MR. SAYERS for more than five minutes at a time. DR. FOOTE arises in the mornings at approximately 7:30, and stays in his room at the Hotel practically all day and all night. Agent has not seen DR. FOOTE leave the Hotel excepting the times when he goes to his meals and when he went to the theatre as stated hereinbefore, and to Pershing Square Park.

#### UNDEVELOPED LEADS

#### THE LOS ANGELES DIVISION

#### AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

The Special Agent in Charge will be kept advised of the progress of this investigation and surveillance of DR. FOOTE at the Val de Mar Hotel, and this surveillance will be continued in an effort to accomplish the desired results.

- P E N D I N G -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 9-175

|  |                            |                                     |   |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  | DATE WHEN MADE<br>12/23/38 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>12/1-17/38 | REPORT MADE BY<br>JAMES G. FINDLAY--1ST |
| TITLE<br>UNKNOWN SUBJECT<br>WES. SAVER SELZNICK - Victim.<br>ANNA ELI ROSE - Victim. |                            |                                     | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION          |

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Agent remained at the Val de Mar Hotel as a guest from December 1 to December 17, 1938, with the object in view of cultivating the acquaintance and friendship of Dr. A. W. FOOTE, a suspect, with the hope that he might discuss his connection with this matter, and disclose the parties involved, as it is believed that if he did not send the extortion notes, he knows who did send them. Agent talked with Dr. FOOTE almost daily, for short periods of time. He talks for only a few minutes, until he finds excuses to take his departure, and seems to be very apprehensive. This surveillance was discontinued on December 17, 1938.

P.

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent J. G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, California, dated 11/29/38.  
Bureau letter dated 11/30/38 (Bureau file #9-2639).

## DETAILS:

At Los Angeles, California

Agent remained as a guest at the Val de Mar Hotel,

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED<br><i>[Signature]</i><br>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES<br>9-12639-50<br>DEC 28 1938 |  |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>2 Bureau<br>3 San Francisco<br>Los Angeles     |   |  |

606 South Hope Street, from December 1, 1938 to December 17, 1938, with the object in view of becoming acquainted with Dr. A. M. FOOTE, who is suspected of having written the extortion letters in this case. Agent had already gotten acquainted with Dr. FOOTE, and had talked with him on several occasions prior to this date. The activities of Dr. FOOTE during this period remained the same as heretofore reported.

He is a semi-invalid, does no work of any sort, and spends most of his time in his room, and in the lobby of the hotel. He goes to the Los Angeles Theatre once or twice per week, in the evening. He attends the First Methodist Church, at 8th and Flower Streets. He eats most of his meals at a small restaurant at 629 W. 6th Street, and at Cliftons Cafeteria, between 6th and 7th, on Olive Street.

The parties at the hotel with whom he talks, and visits are R. H. SAYERS, an elderly, retired oil man, with whom he talks frequently, and at times at considerable length. The subject matter of their conversations is usually politics, and especially about the activities of the Townsend Old Age Pension plan, and other old age pension plans. [redacted]

[redacted] When there is mail for Dr. FOOTE, she seems to communicate with him, if he is in his room, and he immediately comes out and gets his mail. She seems to be familiar with his affairs, and at times she tells him where a letter is from, and at times jokes with him about some of his mail.

Mrs. MILNER, an elderly lady who lives at the hotel, sometimes attends the phone and the clerk's desk, in the absence of [redacted]. Quite often Dr. FOOTE and Mrs. MILNER sit in the lobby of the hotel, and talk, during the day, and also in the evening. JACOB TANNER, a very elderly man, who lives at the hotel, stays in his room most of the time, but at times he is sitting in the lobby during the day and evening, and he and Dr. FOOTE appear to be friends, and talk quite a good deal.

[redacted] a middle-aged man, talks and visits quite a good deal with Dr. FOOTE.

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Almost every morning before going to the office, Agent saw Dr. FOOTE in the lobby of the hotel, going to breakfast, or returning from breakfast, or coming out of his room to get his mail at the clerk's desk; usually only a few words would be spoken, merely to pass the time of day, as Dr. FOOTE is not a man who carries when he has started somewhere. Agent made it a point to endeavor to have talks with Dr. FOOTE in the evening, and with only two or three exceptions during the period stated, Agent had some conversation with Dr. FOOTE in the evening. These conversations were usually very short, lasting not more than two or three minutes, when Dr. FOOTE invariably got up and went to his room, or went to the clerk's desk to ask about something, or to go out of the hotel for a walk, or to the corner to get a paper. The only persons with whom he seems to have an extended conversation are Mr. R. H. SAYERS, [redacted] Mrs. MILNER, Mr. TANNER, and [redacted]

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On the following occasions Dr. FOOTE and Agent had short talks, that is, perhaps for five minutes, and on no occasion as much as ten minutes. The first one was December 3rd, on the occasion of ALBERT KESSEL and ROBERT LEE CANNON being executed at San Quentin Prison for the killing of Warden LARKIN at Folsom. This was the first time that the new system of execution, that of the gas chamber, was used, and there were large news headlines, usually disapproving of the method of the death penalty. Dr. FOOTE and Agent discussed this matter, and I will state that Dr. FOOTE is a thorough believer in capital punishment when the facts warrant, and on this occasion he thought that there was no reason to doubt the facts, as these two felons and three others staged a riot, in which Warden LARKIN and a guard were killed, and also one or two prisoners killed.

The second occasion was on December 4th, after a lot of publicity about the Transamerica Corporation's troubles with the S.E.C. officials. There was an expression of opinion that so long as J. F. T. O'CONNER was Comptroller of the Currency, and Senator McADOO was in power, that no adverse publicity had been given out.

Another occasion was on December 5th, when it was announced that [redacted] had accepted employment from SAM GOLDWYN. Much unfavorable comment was expressed with respect to this.

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The next occasion was December 6th, when the Supreme Court ruled against the Labor Relations Board. His expressions were in sympathy with the rulings of the Supreme Court.

The next occasion was on December 8, 1938, on the occasion of the execution of ANNA MARIE HOHN, at Columbus, Ohio. He expressed horror at the execution of a woman, and disapproved of the officials allowing Mrs. HOHN'S young son to be present with her right up to the time of her execution. Here again he expressed his firm belief in adequate punishment when the facts warranted.

The next occasion was December 9th when WESLEY EUDY and FRED BARNES were executed at San Quentin for their part in the killing of Warden LARKIN at Folsom Prison. Again Dr. FOOTE expressed his approval of capital punishment for murderers.

The next occasion was on December 16, 1938, when ED DAVIS, the fifth member of the Folsom Prison rioters, was executed at San Quentin for the killing of Warden LARKIN of Folsom. The newspapers carried an alleged statement of DAVIS in which he expressed his satisfaction with his life, and with his approaching death. Dr. FOOTE expressed the belief that a man like that was getting his just deserts.

Agent observed that on each of the occasions mentioned, Dr. FOOTE was, what one might say, 100% for law enforcement, and adequate punishment for murderers. It was also noted that while Dr. FOOTE talked freely about these matters, and expressed himself rather emphatically, he evinced no desire or willingness to branch out and talk about other law violations, but it appeared that as soon as the particular matters spoken of had been discussed, that he desired to get away, and would get up and leave.

It is Agent's belief that Dr. FOOTE has no desire to discuss his personal affairs, and it may be that he knows the identity of Agent, as he may have seen Agent at the office at some time, when he was at the office in connection with this matter.

In accordance with the letter of reference, the Special Agent in Charge instructed that the detail at the Val de Mar Hotel be discontinued, and same was discontinued on December 17, 1938.

Through [redacted] at the Post Office, Agent has had tracings made of mail coming to Dr. FOOTE for the purpose of ascertaining who his correspondents are.

Agent also ascertained from [redacted] of the County District Attorney's Office that some belief still prevails in the office that Dr. CECIL REYNOLDS was connected with this extortion plot.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

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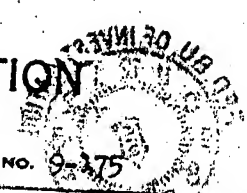
THE LOS ANGELES OFFICE, at Los Angeles, will ascertain from [redacted] the results of the cover placed on Dr. FOOTE'S mail. Agent will contact [redacted] of the District Attorney's investigations, and ascertain what information he has which may show a connection of Dr. REYNOLDS with this matter.

It has also been stated to Agent that Dr. REYNOLDS has been investigated by the State Medical Board, and that it has been ascertained that he is a fakir and a fraud. Agent will ascertain whether or not the Medical Board has any information about Dr. REYNOLDS which will connect him with this matter.

PENDING



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



Form No. 1

CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

L.A.

FILE NO. 9-475

REPORT MADE AT  
LOS ANGELES

DATE WHEN MADE  
3-2-39

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE  
2-9-39

REPORT MADE BY

JAMES G. FINDLAY

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. David Selznick - Victim.  
Anna May Wong - Victim.

CHARACTER OF CASE

EXTORTION

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

EUGENE WILLIAMS, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County, who was Chief of Los Angeles County Bureau of Investigation at time of this alleged offense, expressed himself as being of opinion instant case was a "publicity stunt", but he did not state who he thought responsible for it. He furnished Agent with copy of his complete investigative file covering this case. It contains much information not contained in Los Angeles Office file. That which appears to be material to this investigation is copied in this report, and leads are being set out.

-- P --

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY,  
Los Angeles, 12-23-38.

## DETAILS

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

EUGENE WILLIAMS, Chief Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County, who was in charge of the County Attorney's Bureau of Investigation at the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. B. Hood

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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3 BUREAU  
3 LOS ANGELES

9 12634-51

MAR 6 - A.M.

MAR 8 - 1938



time of this alleged offense, was interviewed by Agent. This interview has been delayed because of the fact that Mr. WILLIAMS has been in Mexico City, Mexico, in connection with affecting the return of some fugitive defendants, as well as some fugitive witnesses, who are wanted in connection with some prosecutions now in progress in Los Angeles County.

At first, the discussion relative to this case came up in a casual way, and Mr. WILLIAMS, in a joking sort of way, made the remark - "It's about time for some of that gang to pull another publicity stunt". Agent then made specific inquiry relative to the "publicity stunt" possibility. Mr. WILLIAMS replied - "Well, you know some of those people couldn't get along without publicity"; further, "Some of those people make their living by creating publicity".

Mr. WILLIAMS further stated that his office had come to the conclusion that no successful prosecution could be made in this matter, and for that reason had discontinued the investigation, although it had not been formally closed in that office.

Mr. WILLIAMS then called [redacted] who had charge of this investigation, and instructed him to permit Agent to read their file, and to allow Agent to have any information in the file that he desired. The reports in the file were read by Agent, and where there was an extra copy, Agent asked if he might have a copy, and after [redacted] conferred with Mr. WILLIAMS and his present Chief, [redacted] furnished Agent with a copy of all reports in their file.

The first summary report is dated April 8, 1937, and is quoted in full below:

80-6-3003 4-8-37 "Los Angeles County

3-23 to 4-8-37

DR. A. M. FOOTE (Suspect)  
(Complainant) Anna May Wong

[redacted]  
Invs. et al,

EXTORTION

P E N D I N G

"On the morning of March 23, 1937, Mr. T. R. Conlon, business address 9533 Brighton Way, Beverly Hills,

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telephone Oxford 7107, residence address 333 South Palm, Beverly Hills, telephone Crestview 8514, manager for Anna May Wong, came to this office with a letter addressed to Anna May Wong at 2124 Wilshire Blvd., this letter being dated March 24, 1937, and asking for \$20,000 under threats of bodily harm to her father and herself, signed with the name A. M. Foote, M.D., 606 South Hope Street, telephone Trinity 6931. The envelope carried a cancellation stamp dated March 22, 1937, at apparently 7:30 P.M., mailed through the Arcade Annex.

"Mr. Conlon stated that this letter had been received and that Miss Wong did not know anyone by the name of Dr. Foote and that she was rather disturbed after receiving this letter. [redacted] then told [redacted] that they should go to this address on South Hope Street and at the same time instructed [redacted] to call this number and ask for Dr. Foote and impersonate Miss Wong.

"We arrived at the Valdemar Hotel and obtained admission to Dr. Foote's room in view of the fact that he was absent, and after waiting some few minutes, were informed by the office that he had arrived. We thereupon called [redacted] through [redacted] and she phoned Dr. Foote, informing Dr. Foote that she was Miss Wong. Dr. Foote stated he did not know her and asked her what she wanted. She informed him she had received a letter asking for \$20,000 and wanted to know where she could meet him. Dr. Foote stated that he had received a letter stating he was to receive some money from her and some other people but had not taken it seriously at that time, asking [redacted] to wait until he transferred the phone call to his room where he could finish the conversation and read the letter to her.

"Upon his hanging up the phone, he started to his room and in doing so, had to pass us in the hallway whereupon we placed him under arrest and he immediately informed us he had received a letter on the previous day which letter is made a part of the file, and produced this letter, stating that he had shown the letter immediately upon re-

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ceipt to the [redacted] of the hotel, [redacted] and Mr. A. H. Sayers, a guest of the hotel, and a friend of Dr. Foote's. These two parties were later interviewed and substantiated Dr. Foote's statement.

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"We then contacted Dr. Frank McCoy's [redacted] and informed him that a letter had been received by Anna May Wong and that Dr. McCoy's name was included as being another who should receive a letter and we asked him if any letter came that he should call it to our attention that we might better be able to conclude the investigation; also told him we felt we should tell him as to the letters in order that they might better safeguard Dr. McCoy if these threats were attempted to be carried out.

"We also contacted Mr. Conlon and requested that he get in touch with Mr. David Selznick and inform Mr. Selznick that in the event he received a letter, which according to the letters we had in our possession at that time, he should receive that Mr. Selznick was to immediately get in touch with the District Attorney's Office through Mr. Conlon.

"We waited around Dr. Foote's room until late that evening, at which time Dr. Foote was taken to another hotel and brought to the office the following morning where specimens of his handwriting were taken and compared by [redacted] of the Los Angeles Police Dept. with the threat letters, [redacted] informing us after examination that in his opinion, the letters were not written by Dr. Foote.

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"On the morning of March the 24th, we took Dr. Foote, accompanied by [redacted] handwriting expert of the Police Dept, and went to the hotel where [redacted] compared the threat letters with the hotel register since the 1st of January, 1937 and failed to find any similarity between the handwriting of Dr. Foote in the register and the threat letters.

"We then had a conference with the [redacted] Valdemar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street,



Trinity 6931, and [redacted] of the same place, and asked for possible suspects in the hotel. The two suspects mentioned by the hotel management were [redacted] Room 217 and [redacted] Room 119. These rooms were searched by your investigators during the absence of the occupants and notes in their handwriting taken from their rooms and compared by Officer [redacted] who informed us there was no similarity between the writing on the suspects' notes and the threat letters. b6 b7C

"We then called Mr. Sayers to the office of the hotel where he gave Officer [redacted] samples of his handwriting, the wording of the specimens being dictated by [redacted]. After a comparison, [redacted] stated there was no similarity between the writing of Sayers and the two threat letters.

"Later in the morning, we went to the home of T. R. Conlon, manager of Anna May Wong, in company with [redacted] of the Department of Justice and there, after a conference of approximately an hour and a half, failed to get any information from Miss Wong that would aid us in the case. However, Miss Wong did state to your investigators at one time during the conference that she had had some dealings with the Abbey Book Store located at 629 West 6th St., telephone Tucker 8553, [redacted]. b6 b7C

This store is located about two doors east of Hope Street on the north side of 6th.

"Later that evening, in company with Department of Justice Agent [redacted] we interviewed [redacted] whose wife had received a letter addressed to Mrs. David Selznick, the Federal authorities but a photostatic copy is in our files. The letter is under date of March 24, 1937 and signed the same as the Anna May Wong letter except that the telephone number is left off. The envelope bears the cancellation date of March 22, 1937, 7:30 P.M., Arcade Station, stationery being the same as used in the Anna May Wong and Dr. Foote letters, the stamp being a different stamp, being a 2¢ stamp instead of a 3¢ stamp as used on the other two. b6 b7C



"During the interview, [redacted] admitted that she knew the letter did not belong to her but that she had opened it, that upon opening the letter, she and her husband attempted to contact Mr. David Selznick and upon failing to do so by midnight of the 23rd, they became alarmed and notified the Hollywood Police Department, whereupon a police broadcast was put out that a threatening letter had been received at this address and a radio car came there to watch the house until police protection was given later. This letter appears to be written in the same hand as both the Foote and Anna May Wong letters.

"Dr. Cecil Reynolds, 1214 Tyler Street, Glendale, Omaha 34472, came to this office at the request of Investigator [redacted] and Dr. Reynolds. Investigators [redacted] and [redacted] together with Department of Justice Agent [redacted] held a conference during which conference Dr. Reynolds was accompanied by his attorney [redacted] of the law firm of Hanna and Morton, 523 West 6th Street, telephone Mutual 7131. During this conference, Dr. Reynolds freely gave specimens of his handwriting to [redacted] and [redacted] and before the conference was over, [redacted] called [redacted] stating that Dr. McCoy's wife had received a phone call just a few moments previous, namely about 10:30, asking if she had received their letter from Dr. Foote and stating she would call back and tell where to send the money. [redacted] instructed [redacted] to get his partner, [redacted] and go immediately to the home of Dr. McCoy, 683 South Ardmore, Exposition 6783 and there await a further phone call and make arrangements at that time for someone in the McCoy family or someone representing the McCoy family to make an appointment with the person making the phone call and attempt at that time to pick up this party.

"We contacted Dr. McCoy at his home and were informed by Dr. McCoy that he did not receive a letter from Dr. Foote or any threatening letter and were also informed by his [redacted] that there had been no such letter received at the office; that about 1:30, we received a phone call from [redacted] at the McCoy home stating that one [redacted] had been arrested and that we were to go immediately to his room, make a search of his room, attempt to

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find handwriting specimens and if possible, to find the balance of the tablet which had been used to write the other threat letters.

We also were informed at that time by [redacted] that Mrs. Aimee Semple McPherson had received a threat letter and that this letter would be brought to us at [redacted] room and that we would there meet [redacted] of the Police Dept. who would make a comparison of all writings at that time.

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We immediately went to [redacted] room where we met investigators [redacted] and [redacted] together with [redacted] of the Police Dept., handwriting expert. [redacted] wrote as dictated by [redacted] his handwriting was compared with the original Anna May Wong and Dr. Foote letters and we were informed by [redacted] that there was no similarity.

We next went to [redacted] and there received from [redacted] a letter which had been received by him that morning addressed to Aimee Semple McPherson, [redacted] showing a cancellation stamp of March 24 11:00 P.M. 1937, Arcade Annex. This letter, however, was not a threat letter and contained no threats in it but upon instruction of [redacted] this letter was immediately turned over to [redacted] of the Department of Justice to be processed for fingerprints, the letter apparently being the same handwriting, the same paper but a different envelope as was used in the Anna May Wong and Dr. Foote and Selznick notes, the letter itself bearing no date but bearing a purported signature of Dr. A. M. Foote, Valdemar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, Trinity 6931. To date, we have had no report from the Department of Justice Bureau of Investigation, as to fingerprints or any similarity between these handwritings and the handwriting specimens taken by [redacted] from the above named suspects.

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Later on that evening, we went to the home of Mr. Conlon, manager for Anna May Wong, and heard that Dr. Reynolds had attempted to contact Miss Wong and while there, listened in over a telephone extension to a conversation between Miss Wong and Dr. Reynolds. In this conversation,

there is no mention made of this case with the exception that Dr. Reynolds stated he had read in the evening papers that he, in his statement to the District Attorney's Office, had denied knowing Miss Wong and Dr. Foote. Dr. Reynolds, during his conversation with Miss Wong, assured her that he valued her friendship greatly and did not wish her to think he had denied her to the District Attorney's Investigators or any other person.

"Friday, March 26, 1937, -- On this date, your investigators were instructed by [redacted] to take the threat letters and specimens of handwriting of Dr. A. M. Foote to [redacted] handwriting expert, at [redacted]

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"Your investigators then went to the Hayward Hotel, Room 212, and obtained handwriting from [redacted] residence [redacted] and [redacted] Room 212, Hayward Hotel. [redacted] at this time is putting on the play "Road to Liberty" for the UVR and [redacted] is their publicity man and also a member of the UVR. This handwriting was taken from these two men because at a past date, they had mailed letters to various city officials in order that they might seek and gain publicity for their play, the "Road to Liberty". The specimens of this handwriting did not correspond to the handwriting of the threat letters.

"In the evening of this date, Investigator [redacted] took Dr. Foote to a show and during their absence, Investigators [redacted] and [redacted] thoroughly re-searched the room of Dr. Foote at the Valdemar Hotel for any ink or paper identical to that used in the threat letters.

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"March 27, 1937. On this date, your investigators took further specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting and also specimens of [redacted] handwriting to [redacted]

"On Monday, March 29, Investigator [redacted] talked with Dr. Foote at the hotel and was informed by Foote that he had thought of one man who might have written these letters but that he did not know the man's name although he thought a [redacted] who lived on [redacted] might know the man's name. We waited until about 10:30 when Investigator [redacted]

accompanied by Investigator [redacted] came to the hotel. The four of us went to the home of [redacted]

[redacted] at that time, informed us that the man who had introduced himself and Dr. Foote was a Mr. George A. Wilson, sometimes known as Al, but he did not at that time have the address of Mr. Wilson. However, we were furnished by [redacted] with the name of [redacted]

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[redacted] After checking this address, we found the lady had moved and her present whereabouts unknown. However, we checked through the Registrar of Voters and located [redacted] at [redacted]

"We later interviewed [redacted] on Wednesday March 31st and she informed us that she had not contacted Mr. Wilson for more than a month, she now having a new boy friend, and after having the matter explained to her, she assured us she would inform us as to Mr. Wilson's whereabouts as soon as she got his address. She also told us Mr. Wilson was a man of a very erratic nature with a very vivid imagination and did not have much regard for the truth.

"On Tuesday, March the 30th, we took further specimens of Dr. Foote's handwriting, both left and right hand and delivered them to [redacted] office.

"That evening about 9:30 we were called out on a tip from the Los Angeles Examiner by one [redacted] that he had an informant by the name of [redacted]

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[redacted] We two, together with [redacted] went to this apartment where we were told by [redacted] that she had been keeping company with this [redacted]

[redacted] between the time of March 1st to March 16th; that during this period [redacted] had told her that he was about to receive \$20,000 in cash and had asked her to go with him on a trip through the east. She stated that she had thought he was a pretty smart man and had agreed to go with him until about the 18th of March, she decided he was a little bit peculiar and had a very vivid imagination, at which time she broke off with him. The last time she



heard from him was the morning of the 19th, when she had a phone call asking her to come over and upon her coming over, had left and did not see her. She further told us [redacted] had written a play on the life of Christ and that he had attempted to get this play produced at some local motion picture studio.

"We then went to [redacted] apartment and upon permission of the landlady, proceeded to search the room, brought with us several letters in his handwriting, which were later identified by [redacted] as [redacted] handwriting, for comparison by the handwriting expert. We also took with us some correspondence both to and from this address, one letter being addressed to [redacted] and another letter addressed to "Dear Wife" and signed [redacted] which had not been mailed. In view of the facts of the two names, we have written to the Chicago Police Department, the city from which this man came, to see if he is wanted under either name.

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"Wednesday, March 31st, we went to 1007 1/2 South Figueroa Street, that being the last address we had of a [redacted] a very close friend of Dr. Foote's, and were informed that [redacted] had moved from there two months previously; that his present address was unknown. We checked with the WPA authorities and find that was the last address they had for [redacted]. We checked the Registrar of Voters and failed to find any address on [redacted]. Up to the present time, we have not been able to contact him.

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"On Friday, April the 2nd, we were sent by [redacted] to the office of Mr. Conlon and there picked up a letter sent to Anna May Wong, said letter made by perforating a piece of brown paper bag, this letter bearing a cancellation of the Arcade Annex, Apr. 1 12:00 M 1937, the envelope being addressed in printing to Anna May Wong, 2424 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. Both the letter and the envelope were brought back and submitted to the Sheriff's Office in an attempt to find fingerprints but no fingerprints were developed. This letter reads as follows: "You are not yet save what is money oopared to your life S H E".

"This letter was obviously the production of some feeble minded person who thought he was very clever and really contains no threat and was not mailed in an envelope similar to the others, nothing on it appearing to link it with the other letters received by Anna May Wong or the other parties.

"It appears from the facts of this case that the party writing the threat letters did not know much about the intimate life of the parties to whom the letters were written for in the case of Anna May Wong, the letter was addressed to 2424 Wilshire Blvd., which address appears in the latest telephone book under the name of Anna May Wong. Miss Wong informs us all her friends address her at the Park Manor Apartments and do not use the street number on Wilshire Blvd.

"The letter addressed to Mrs. David Selznick is addressed to the home of [redacted] which address appears in the phone book under the name of [redacted] the address of David Selznick not appearing in the phone book.

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"The letter addressed to Aimee Semple McPherson was addressed to [redacted] only which information is had by practically everyone in Los Angeles. The only other salient fact in this addressing was the fact that Dr. Foote's letter was addressed to Dr. A. M. Foote, Valdemar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, Los Angeles. Dr. Foote's name does not appear in the city directory or the city phone book. The only known places where his name would appear is the Registrar of Voters office and the roster of Roosevelt Camp of the Spanish American War Veterans. This leads us to believe that the letter must have been written by some person who had some definite knowledge as to Foote's activities and also probably some person who is friendly with Dr. Foote, and it is very possible - although after talking to Dr. Foote, and being with him for some time, I think rather improbable - that Dr. Foote is in on this extortion plot.

"Another peculiar incident in this case is the fact that Dr. McCoy did not receive a letter but he did receive a phone call; Dr. McCoy had his name in the phone book in three different phone numbers but the phone number upon

which the call came was the phone of Dr. McCoy's house listed in the name of his [redacted] who has been married for about three years and who now lives in Santa Monica, her name now being [redacted]. This one fact points somewhat to Dr. Reynolds in view of the fact that he has known Dr. McCoy for some time; that he did treat Dr. McCoy 13 years ago at this same address when [redacted] was living there. Further, Dr. Reynolds is a very close personal friend of Anna May Wong. He does know David Selznick, having been employed by Mr. Selznick to conduct an examination and laboratory experiment looking forward to the preventing of David Selznick's son becoming nearsighted as Mr. Selznick is. It is to be noted here also that in the letter to Selznick, the fact is mentioned that unless this ransom is paid "your son Myron will be hopelessly blinded and crippled for life." The fact that Myron does not happen to be the son of David Selznick but happens to be the brother does not seem to make much difference to the writer of this letter.

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"Throughout the letters, the person writing the letters attempts to make Dr. Foote appear to be the Christ and to look like the Christ; however Dr. Foote has no resemblance at all to portraits or purported likenesses of the Christ.

"At the present time, we have two unexhausted leads; one a letter from a [redacted] formerly of Los Angeles, who is now in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the other being this George A. Wilson. These leads are being followed as soon as we locate Wilson or receive a reply from [redacted] of St. Petersburg, Florida."

Individual investigators in the County Attorney's Bureau of Investigation made reports, the substance of which was not incorporated in the above summary report. Extracts from some, which may be of importance to this investigation, are quoted below;

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[redacted] investigator, reported the following on March 30, 1937:

"While interviewing Mr. Selznick, [redacted] informed Investigator [redacted] that the letters might have been written by a Dr. Cecil E. Reynolds, who had made an effort to sell certain manuscripts to the Selznick studio.

This doctor is a purported brain scientist, and at one time [ ] discussed the difficulty of Mr. Selznick's Son's eyesight, and, due to the fact that the letter that was written to Mr. Selznick referred to motion picture manuscripts and threatened the destruction of the boy's eyesight, [ ] was under the impression that may be Dr. Reynolds had something to do with this correspondence.

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"After interviewing Mr. Davis Selznick at the studio, Investigator [ ] made a verbal report to the [ ] who then instructed investigators [ ] and [ ] to proceed to 1014 Tyler St., Glendale, telephone Omaha 34477, which is the residence of Dr. Cecil Reynolds, with instructions to determine, if possible, whether any of the stationery, envelopes, stamps, or any other evidence may be located which might connect Dr. Reynolds with the party or parties writing the threatening letters.

"We arrived there about 3:15 P.M. on the 24th of March, and after making an attempt to enter the residence we were met at the door by a young man whose name is [ ] and he informed us that Dr. Reynolds was not in, and he did not know when the doctor would return. We then proceeded to wait around the corner in the car until about 4:15 when, returning to the house, we requested entry for the purpose of using the telephone to call headquarters. We were granted admission by the [ ] who is a guest of Dr. Reynolds, and after looking over the house casually we found no stationery or envelopes which would correspond with the letters that were written, but did find some identical army stamps, which were the type used by the writer of the letters.

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"About 4:35, Dr. Reynolds came in. We informed him that we were there to investigate the purported writing of certain letters by certain individuals, and asked the doctor for a specimen of his handwriting. He gave us a sheet out of his day book, which was brought to the Bureau.



"That evening, Investigator [ ] called Dr. Reynolds at 6:30 P.M. and requested that he report to the Bureau of Investigation on the morning of March 25 at 10:00 A.M. Dr. Reynolds came in as per request, and in the presence of Investigators [ ] and the Department of Justice Agent, [ ] gave several specimens of his handwriting."

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[ ] Investigator, reported the following on March 30, 1937:

"On Mar. 30, 1937, on information from a probation officer, your investigator went to 606 S. Hope St. in an effort to contact a [ ] who was reported as a suspect in this matter. Information stated that [ ] was inclined to be over-religious, and was well acquainted with Dr. Foote, as well as having access to his room.

[ ] of the hotel at the above address informed me that [ ] secured his mail at that address, and that he, at times, worked for a real estate broker, [ ] rooms 5 and 6 of this hotel. At this office, your investigator secured an example of [ ] handwriting, consisting of an expense account for a trip into Mexico, containing fifteen or twenty items. This sample of his handwriting, with the extortion letters to Anna May Wong and Mr. Selznick and to Dr. Foote, was taken to the LAPD fingerprint expert, [ ]. After a lengthy comparison, [ ] said that the handwritings were not similar. The samples of [ ] handwriting were then returned to [ ] office."

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[ ] made the following report dated April 23, 1934:

"On Tuesday, April 13th a letter was received from the Veterans Administration of Hynes, Illinois, in response to our inquiry of April 5th, which letter is made a part of the file. This letter states that Fred A. Lutterman, C-816916 was a veteran and that they had forwarded the data pertaining to his case, to the Chief Attorney, Veterans Administration, Los Angeles, California, and

requested we contact this party who would furnish us with the data, if we could satisfy him as to our credentials.

"Therefore, on April 21st we contacted [redacted] for the Veterans Bureau at Sawtelle, and was informed by him that the file disclosed that Fred A. Lutterman joined the Navy in Chicago, November 3rd, 1920, and was discharged July 12th, 1921; at that time drawing a mental discharge, his case being diagnosed as dementia praecox. That at the time Fred A. Lutterman was discharged his address was, C/o B. C. Beverly, 1908 Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois.

[redacted] further stated that the last examination made of Mr. Lutterman, was January 23rd, 1933, at which time his case was diagnosed as psycho-neurosis. At this time he gave his address [redacted] 1217 No. State, Parkway, Chicago, Illinois.

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"NOTE: In the examination of the writings in Dr. (or Captain) Beverly's apartment, 833 W. 9th Street, Los Angeles, we found one letter addressed to "Dear [redacted] and signed "Freddie," which is apparently the same handwriting as other handwritings which were signed "B.C." and "Captain" and "Dr. Beverly," which leads us to believe that this man Lutterman, who is without doubt a psychio case, has been using the name B. C. Beverly while in California, and it may be that there is no such person as B. C. Beverly.

"In view of the fact that officer [redacted] of the Los Angeles Police Department, handwriting expert, informs us that these writings of "Dr. Beverly" and "Freddie" do not compare with the writings in the extortion letters, we have not contacted the Chicago Police Department with request to locate this man. However, we are keeping a close surveillance of the doctor's rooms and intend to pick him up for questioning as soon as he returns to Los Angeles.

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"On April 15th a statement was taken from Dr. Foote, at the request of former [redacted] who is now connected with the Missing Persons Detail of the Los Angeles Police Department, which report is made a part of this file, copy of said report being furnished to Detective Lieutenant [redacted] and at this time we requested [redacted] Adjutant of Roosevelt Camp, Spanish-American

Veterans, telephone [ ] to furnish us with the information as furnished the Post by Dr. Foote, upon his application for membership.

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"On the morning of April 23rd [ ] gave us the following information: Dr. Foote's application shows that he applied for membership on February 24th, 1923, giving his age at that time as fifty years, stating he was born in Anoka, Minnesota; that at the time of his application he was a real estate broker, and gave as his nearest relative his brother Willis O. Foote, R.F.D. No. 2, Box 334, Pasadena, California. The application further showed that Dr. Foote enlisted May 8th, 1898, at St. Paul, joining Company "M" of the 14th Minnesota Volunteers; that he was discharged in St. Paul on November 18th, 1898. This information checks with the information as given by Dr. Foote in his statement of April 15th, 1937, and definitely shows that Dr. Foote is not the man wanted by the Missing Persons Detail.

"At the present time detectives are making every effort to contact George W. Wilson and [ ] and are keeping the apartment of Dr. B. C. Beverly under surveillance, intending to bring him in for questioning upon his return to Los Angeles. The case is therefore marked pending."

A check of the Los Angeles Bureau Office file shows that a number of the parties, such as AL WILSON, [ ] and others, who were not interviewed by the County Attorney's Investigators, have already been interviewed by Agents of the Los Angeles Bureau Office.

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#### UNDEVELOPED LEADS

##### THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, will interview [ ]

[ ] for further information concerning DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, who lived at 833 West 9th Street, Apartment No. 11, at the time this offense is alleged to have

been committed. It appears that FRED A. LUTTERMAN, a disabled War Veteran, under Veterans Administration Serial No. C-816,917, at Sawtelle, California, and DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, may be one and the same person. It also appears that FRED A. LUTTERMAN has written a play on the life of Christ, and that he also told [redacted] that he was soon to have \$20,000.00, and wanted to take her on a trip throughout the East.

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\*Will ascertain from [redacted] Post Office Detail, Los Angeles Police Department, the results of the cover placed on the mail of DR. FOOTE.

\*The record of DR. CECIL REYNOLDS, a suspect in this case, will be obtained from the State Medical Board, as it has been ascertained that he has been under investigation by the State Medical Board on a number of occasions.

--- P E N D I N G ---



**Figure 1**

July 21, 1939

1990

9-2539-52

**AIR MAIL**

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

Re: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Victim;  
Anna May Wong - Victim; Extortion.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau

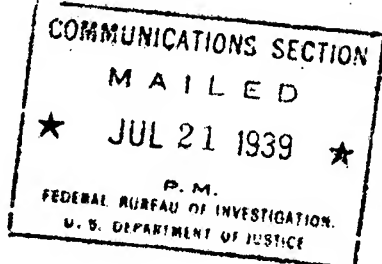
July 10, 1939.

Very truly yours,

V. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

**Enclosure:**



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 29289

STH:EG

Laboratory Report

July 21, 1939

Class: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selsnick, Victim;  
Anna May Wong - Victim; Extortion.

Number: 9-2639-52

Specimens: See attached page

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Date received: 7/10/39

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination:

Examination by:

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It has been concluded that Vivian Howard whose known handwriting is designated as specimen K15 did not write any of the extortion notes previously submitted in this case. As previously reported in Laboratory Report #18644, dated August 25, 1937, it has been concluded that Doctor A. M. Foote wrote specimens Q1 through Q10.

The evidence submitted, K15, is being retained in the Laboratory.

- 1 - Bureau
- 2 - Los Angeles
- 1 - Laboratory

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Page 2  
Laboratory Report #29289

Specimens:

- 9-2539-52 K15. Known handwriting of Vivian Howard consisting of the following photostats:  
Photostatic copy in six parts of six-page letter dated June 4, 1927 beginning "We arrived this...", signed "Vivian"; sheets are marked 2 through 6 with exception of first sheet.  
Photostatic copy in three parts of three-page letter dated June 5, 1927 beginning "In my first..." and signed "Lovingly Vivian".



Los Angeles, California  
July 6th, 1939

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MRS. DAVID SKLZNICK - Victim  
ANNA MAY MONG - Victim  
Extortion

There are being submitted herewith the following hand-writing specimens in the above-entitled matter for handwriting examination and report:

Photostated copy of a letter of six pages dated June 4, 1927, with the salutation, "My darling Lilly", signed "Vivian", my address is V. A. Howard, 326 Flint Street, Reno, Nevada".

Photostated copy of a letter of three pages dated June 5, 1927, with the salutation, "My darling Lilly" and signed, "Lovingly, Lillian".

The above two letters are known to be in the handwriting of Vivian Howard, who is living at the home of Suspect Dr. Cecil Reynolds at the present time and has been living there for several years.

It will be noted that these letters are more than ten years old so that there could be a considerable change in the handwriting of the individual, Vivian Howard, during that period of time.

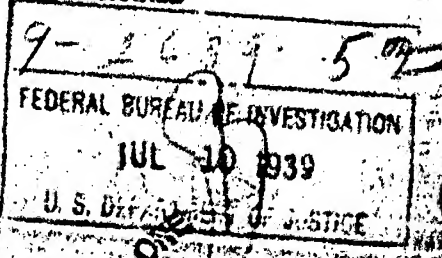
Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

JGP:EG  
Incls

9-175

NOT RECORDED





# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

|   |                          |   |                                       |
|---|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>Los Angeles, Calif.   | DATE WHEN MADE<br>7-6-39 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>4-28 &<br>5/13, 27 &<br>6-9-39 | L. A. FILE NO.<br>9-175               |
| TITLE<br>UNKNOWN SUBJECT;<br>MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - VICTIM<br>ANNA MAY WONG - VICTIM |                          |   | REPORT MADE BY<br>JAMES G. FINDLAY HG |
|   |                          |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION        |

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Tracings obtained from mail addressed to DR. A. M. FOOTE not similar to handwriting in extortion notes. [redacted] and DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY not located. Specimens of handwriting of VIVIAN HOWARD, an associate of DR. CECIL REYNOLDS, a possible suspect in this case, were obtained and same are being submitted to the Bureau for handwriting examination.

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, California, March 2, 1939.

## DETAILS:

### AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

Through Postoffice Inspector [redacted] Agent had a cover placed on the mail going to DR. A. M. FOOTE at the Valdemar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, for a period of one month. During that time DR. FOOTE received only four letters, which were addressed to him in handwriting. Tracings of these four specimens of handwriting were obtained and compared with the handwriting in the extortion notes. There is apparently no similarity between the handwriting in any one of the tracings and that which appears in the extortion notes. Therefore, the tracings are not being sent to the Bureau for handwriting examination.

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT:

2 Bureau  
3 Los Angeles

9-2639-53

JUL 13 1939

JUL 10 AM

Agent was informed that there was a case in the State Superior Court entitled [redacted] Plaintiff, vs. [redacted] defendant, No. 410,693, for damages in the amount of \$17,500.00, in which DR. CECIL REYNOLDS, a suspect in this case, was charged by Judge JOSEPH W. VICKERS, who tried the case, with "building up this damage case" by keeping his patient, [redacted] sequestered in a sanitarium and had several doctors who were believed to be unscrupulous examine her for the purpose of using them as witnesses, and refused to permit any doctor representing the defendant to examine her or anyone to interview her. JUDGE VICKERS instructed the jury that a judgment should be returned against DR. REYNOLDS' patient and called the unprofessional conduct of DR. REYNOLDS to the State Board of Medical Examiners.

JUDGE VICKERS was interviewed to see if he had any information that would show or tend to show that DR. REYNOLDS was connected with instant matter and to ascertain if there was any handwriting in the case in his court that might be of value for comparison purposes in instant investigation. JUDGE VICKERS stated that he had neither, but he referred Agent to the Medical Board which he stated had a file on DR. REYNOLDS to his personal knowledge.

[redacted] of the Board of Medical Examiners, State Building, Los Angeles, was interviewed. He stated that he had quite a file on DR. REYNOLDS, but that it consisted principally of newspaper clippings telling what "queer things which DR. REYNOLDS had done", such as "alleged delicate brain operations" and "hypnotic demonstrations", "dope scenes in motion picture plays, etc.", but nothing of his medical record; and no charges have been filed against DR. REYNOLDS, at least none are on file against him at the present time.

[redacted] an attorney, who represented W. D. HOWARD in the State Superior Court, Case No. 410,202, in which VIVIAN HOWARD, a niece of MRS. W. D. HOWARD, was suing to contest the will of MRS. W. D. HOWARD, was interviewed. He stated that MRS. HOWARD (LILLIAN) was the widow of the millionaire, LUCKY BALDWIN; that after the death of LUCKY BALDWIN, MRS. BALDWIN married a young man, MR. HOWARD, some 20 to 30 years younger than herself; that MRS. W. D. HOWARD died about two years ago and her niece, VIVIAN HOWARD, brought suit to contest the will of MRS. W. D. HOWARD. He further stated that VIVIAN HOWARD and her three children, [redacted] are living in the home of DR. REYNOLDS, and it is stated that DR. REYNOLDS and VIVIAN HOWARD have been living together for the past several years and that VIVIAN HOWARD is completely under the influence of DR. REYNOLDS.

MR. WILSON stated that he believed that it could be possible that VIVIAN HOWARD, under the domination of DR. REYNOLDS, could be the author of the extortion letters in instant case.

MR. WILSON gave Agent the following samples of known handwriting of VIVIAN HOWARD:

Photostat of letter of six pages dated June 4, 1927, with salutation: "My darling Lilly", signed "Vivian", "My address is V. A. HOWARD, 326 Flint St., Reno, Nevada".

Photostat of letter of three pages dated June 5, 1927 with salutation: "My darling Lilly" and signed, "Lovingly, Vivian".

Photostated copies of the two letters above-mentioned are being submitted to the Bureau for handwriting examinations.

Efforts have been made to locate [redacted] and DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY without success.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD

\*LOS ANGELES OFFICE at Los Angeles, California, will make further effort to locate and interview [redacted] and DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, who did live at 833 West Ninth Street, Los Angeles, as indicated in the report of reference. They do not live at that address at the present time and effort thus far to locate them has been unavailing.

PENDING



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

LA FILE NO. 9-175

|   |                            |   |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA   | DATE WHEN MADE<br>10/23/39 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>9/23,30<br>10/14,16/39 | REPORT MADE BY<br>JAMES G. FINDLAY<br>jag |
| TITLE<br>UNKNOWN SUBJECT;<br>Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim;<br>ANNA MAY WONG - Victim. |                            |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION            |

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation shows that FRED A. LUTTERMAN, alias Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, lived at 833 West Ninth Street, Los Angeles, and was associated with [redacted] and two elderly women, whose names are unknown. BEVERLY made many statements to [redacted] about expecting to get \$20,000 from a play which he had written on the life of Christ, and a book on the same subject which he had written. [redacted] stated that the statements and phraseology of Dr. BEVERLY were identical with the statements in the extortion letters. BEVERLY left Los Angeles suddenly at about the time that the extortion letters were mailed, told no one where he was going, and no one has heard from him.

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## REFERENCES:

Reports of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, California, 3/2/39 and 7/6/39.

Letter from the Bureau to the Los Angeles Field Division, July 21, 1939, (9-2639).

## DETAILS:

Agent made investigation in an effort to locate Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY with the following results:

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

R. B. Hood

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Chicago
- 4 - Los Angeles

9-12639-54 NOV 4 1939

OCT 31 A.M.

ONE - BUREAU



[redacted] Street, telephone Mutual 9528, stated that "Doctor" BRUCE C. [redacted] (the title of Doctor was an assumed title, as this party was a member of some East Indian cult) came to her place in the Fall of 1937, and stayed several months, and left her place in April, 1937, owing her a bill of approximately \$60. She stated that BEVERLY was always writing poetry, and claimed he was writing a book on the Life of Christ. She stated that she did not know that "Dr" BEVERLY was not the correct name of this party until after he left her place. She stated that the two men who ran the Best Yet Cafe, at 929 West Ninth Street, came to see her about Dr. BEVERLY after he left, because Dr. BEVERLY owed them a bill; that these men told her that Dr. BEVERLY got government checks for war services, and that the checks came to him in the name of FRED A. LUTTERMAN.

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[redacted] stated that Dr. BEVERLY associated with [redacted] and stated that [redacted] often came to Dr. BEVERLY'S apartment and stayed with BEVERLY for hours at a time; and she further stated that [redacted] came to get her on one or two occasions and threatened BEVERLY with a knife. She further stated that Dr. BEVERLY boasted that he was not afraid of [redacted] as he, BEVERLY, possessed superhuman powers with which he could overcome any attacks that [redacted] might make upon him. She stated that BEVERLY was frequently boastful of his asserted superhuman powers; that he never boasted of his physical abilities, but always about his superhuman abilities. She stated that she had no information of BEVERLY'S whereabouts. She stated that Dr. BEVERLY left her place very suddenly and left some things which he had placed in a stove room as he slipped out owing her money. She stated that when the officers from the District Attorney's office came to her place she gave them BEVERLY'S belongings; she further stated that she thought she gave them everything, but she later found a loose-leaf booklet of BEVERLY'S writings which Agent examined.

Some of this booklet is in typewriting and some is in hand-writing. Most of it is a very poor grade of poetry. Some of it deals with things supposedly religious, and a very small portion of it deals with the Life of Christ. [redacted] gave this material to Agent, and same is being retained in the Los Angeles Bureau office.

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[redacted] stated that two elderly women about 60 years of age came to her place on a number of occasions to see Dr. BEVERLY, but she stated that she did not hear their names and did not know where they lived.

[redacted] stated that he knew this party under the name of FRED A. LUTTERMAN, but LUTTERMAN told him that he was using the name Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY as he was writing a book on the Life of Christ and he was using the name of BEVERLY for advertising purposes. [redacted] stated that BEVERLY left owing him \$30 for meals; that BEVERLY did not leave any forwarding address and he has no information of his present whereabouts, but that BEVERLY often talked about Chicago.

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[redacted] at the Veterans' Administration, West Los Angeles, was contacted. [redacted] stated that this party was never in the Veterans' Home at West Los Angeles, but at the request of the Los Angeles Police Department he secured the record of FRED A. LUTTERMAN, #C-916916, from the Veterans' Administration at Hynes, Illinois. He stated that the record of FRED A. LUTTERMAN reflected that he enlisted in the United States Navy at Chicago, Illinois on November 3, 1920, and was discharged on July 12, 1921 on account of mental deficiency, his case being diagnosed as Dementia Praecox. At the time of LUTTERMAN's discharge from the Navy he gave as his address care of B. C. BEVERLY, 1908 Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois. The record further showed that LUTTERMAN was examined on January 23, 1933 at the Veterans' Administration at Hynes, Illinois, at which time his case was diagnosed as psychosis. At this time LUTTERMAN gave as his address care of [redacted]

[redacted] the restaurant at 904 South Figueroa Street, was located at the Godfrey Restaurant at 850 South Flower Street, and interviewed. She stated that [redacted] at 904 South Figueroa Street in the Spring of 1937; at which time [redacted] lived at the Finkle Arms Apartments. She further stated that [redacted] often waited on Dr. BEVERLY when he came into the restaurant and in a short time [redacted] seemed to become infatuated with Dr. BEVERLY, and went to his apartment in the Greenwood Apartments; that [redacted] association with BEVERLY caused trouble between [redacted] and her husband, and as a result of this [redacted] separated.

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[redacted] stated that BEVERLY had made the statement to [redacted] that he was going to receive \$20,000 in cash from a motion picture of the Life of Christ, and a book which he had written on the Life of Christ; and had told [redacted] that when he got the \$20,000 he would buy her some fine clothes and furs, and would take her on a trip all over the eastern part of the country, and would take her to Chicago, Illinois where they would live on the shore of Lake Michigan in a big hotel. [redacted] informed Agent that Dr. BEVERLY disappeared very

suddenly about the time that the publicity about the extortion letters in this case appeared in the newspapers; and so far as she knows no one has heard anything from him since he disappeared.

met Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY in the restaurant at 904 South Figueroa Street [redacted] stated that she first [redacted] that BEVERLY came in their cafe for his meals. He always ordered the most expensive things on the bill of fare and he would not eat any portion of the food. He would order a large steak and cut it up, but would not take a single bite of it, but would order two, three, or four cups of coffee and drink the coffee and smoke cigarettes incessantly. She stated that she asked him why he did not eat after ordering a good meal, and Dr. BEVERLY said that he could not eat for thinking of when he was going out with her. She stated that she went to the Loews State theater with him and within two or three days he stated that he was going to get \$20,000 from a play which he had written on the Life of Christ, and that he was writing a book on the Life of Christ; and stated that AIMEE SEMPLE MacPHERSON was going to finance the play and the book; that for the financing of the play AIMEE was to have the part of the Virgin Mary, and that he, Dr. BEVERLY was going to be the character Christ in the play; and stated that if he felt very confident that he could accomplish anything that he undertook. She stated that Dr. BEVERLY carried a portfolio at all times, and at different times he stated to her that the manuscript was concealed, and he would put the portfolio with his hand, and say "The secret of my success is in this portfolio, and the results of my life work are in there." He said that this was going to be a super-production, a far greater play than the "Sign of the Cross." He said that he had made a study of the Bible and had conducted personal research in Egypt, Palestine and Jerusalem, and many other places, and because of that fact he had more intimate knowledge of the life of Christ than anyone who had gone before. She stated that he said that it made no difference what the subject matter was, that he had super-knowledge from Christ, and was a natural genius.

She stated that Dr. BEVERLY on different occasions stated that "I will stop at nothing. No harm will befall me. Nothing can hurt me. Fear means nothing to me."

She stated that Dr. BEVERLY, on more than one occasion stated that ANNA MAY WONG was a personal friend of his, and that he had her secret telephone number; and he stated that there had been an article in the newspapers about some extortion letters having been sent to ANNA MAY WONG at some place in Culver City.

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[ ] stated that the last paragraph of the extortion letter which was sent to AIMEE SEMPLE MacPHERSON is the language of Dr. BEVERLY; that is, Dr. BEVERLY claimed to be even superior to Christ and could make anyone yield to his desires.

[ ] stated that the letter to Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK appears to her to be clearly the wording of Dr. BEVERLY; that the words, phrases, subject matter, expressions, and everything is the exact substance of the words used by Dr. BEVERLY; that he rambled on always with the Christ-like character and super-man features uppermost in his conversation and "rantings."

[ ] stated that Dr. BEVERLY promised her that when he got the \$20,000 he was going to buy her all kinds of furs and clothes and that they were going to drive to Chicago and live at the big hotel on North Shore Drive. She stated that he took her to Haggarty's Store at Seventh and Grand Avenue to look at furs which he said he would buy her after he obtained the \$20,000.

[ ] stated that about three days before Dr. BEVERLY disappeared he said that in ancient times it was a custom to send a message of death to anyone who knew too much or talked too much, and explained that they would send a wish-bone and a rattlesnake rattle to such person, which was intended to convey the information that the person receiving said wish-bone and rattlesnake rattle would be injured the same as if bitten by a rattlesnake, so that the person could not talk. She stated that Dr. BEVERLY asked her what she would do if she received such a warning. She stated that she told Dr. BEVERLY that she wasn't superstitious and passed it off as a joke.

[ ] stated that about a week or ten days after that, and a day or two after Dr. BEVERLY had left the Greenwood Apartments, that some articles appeared in either the Examiner or the Herald, and perhaps in both, about AIMEE SEMPLE MacPHERSON receiving some extortion letter but her recollection was that it was not the extortion letter mentioned in this case; and she stated that when she returned home that night, after her work, that she found a wish-bone and a rattlesnake rattle tied to her doorknob; that she then reported this matter to the police immediately, and that [ ] in the District Attorney's office, [ ] and two newspaper men and a matron, came to the Finkle Arms Apartments and she told them the above story in substance the same as set out here. She stated that she gave the wish-bone and rattlesnake rattle to [ ] and his associates.

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[redacted] stated that on or about March 18, Dr. BEVERLY said that he was expecting \$2,000 by wire from Chicago; that Dr. BEVERLY did not say from whom he expected to receive the money, but that it was to come by Western Union Telegram; and that he took her to the Western Union office where she stayed from about 10:00 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m., and it rained all day. She stated that no telegram came. She further stated that Dr. BEVERLY stayed at the Western Union office with her for about one hour in the morning, then he left and did not come back. She stated that she did not ask Dr. BEVERLY why he did not come back, and also that she did not ask him why he did not get the money. She stated that he never got any money by wire that she knew about; and she did not ask him for information and BEVERLY did not offer any explanation or excuse. She stated that she had neither seen nor heard from Dr. BEVERLY since about two days before she found the wish-bone and rattlesnake rattle tied to her doorknob.

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The following is a description of FRED A. LUTTERMAN, alias BRUCE C. BEVERLY, as obtained from the parties interviewed:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Name          | FRED A. LUTTERMAN, alias<br>Dr. Bruce C. Beverly   |
| Age           | Between 45 and 50 years  |
| Height        | 6'   |
| Weight        | 160 to 170 pounds  |
| Hair          | Black, bald in front   |
| Eyes          | Dark, piercing   |
| Nationality   | Probably Armenian blood  |
| Mustache      | Cropped mustache   |
| Teeth         | Good   |
| Peculiarities | East Indian Cultist  |
| Address       | Unknown, except that he has a<br>record at the Veterans' Ad-<br>ministration Facility at<br>Hynes, Illinois. |

ENCLOSURES:

To the Chicago Field Division:

One copy of report of Special Agent JAMES G.  
FINDLAY, Los Angeles, California, 3/2/39.

One photostatic copy of extortion letter to  
Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK.

ENCLOSURES (Continued)

To the Chicago Field Division: (Continued)

One photostatic copy of the extortion letter to ADKRE SEMPLE MacPHERSON.

One photostatic typewritten copy of an extortion letter to ANNA MAY WONG.

A loose-leaf book containing poetry and notes on the life of Christ, supposedly written by Dr. BEVERLY.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS and HYNES, ILLINOIS

Will at the Veterans' Administration at Hynes, Illinois: and at 1908 Clark Street, Chicago; and through [redacted] locate FRED A. LUTTERMAN, who is undoubtedly the same party who was going under the name of Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY in Los Angeles.

If located he should be questioned in detail for all the facts in this case. He should be required to give a full detailed statement concerning his stay in Los Angeles; the names and addresses of parties who knew him and associated with him; the names and addresses of the two elderly women who visited him at his apartment at the Greenwood Apartments, 833 West Ninth Street, Los Angeles; and it should be found out whom BEVERLY knew at the Val de Mar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, Los Angeles.

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It is not believed that LUTTERMAN, alias BEVERLY, actually wrote the extortion letters, but it is believed by [redacted] that he dictated the letters and had some poor dupe, probably one of the elderly women who visited him at his apartment do the writing. [redacted] has stated that the wording and phraseology is that of Dr. BEVERLY. The subject matter of the letters, that is, the several references to the life of Christ, appears to have been a subject which was uppermost in the mind of Dr. BEVERLY. His statements about ANNA MAY WONG and ADKRE SEMPLE MacPHERSON to [redacted] verbally are apparently in substance repeated several times in the extortion letters, which fact makes it appear that BEVERLY is the party who composed the letters.

Dr. A. M. FOOTE whose name appeared as the author of the letters is a semi-invalid, a Spanish American War veteran, about 66 years of age, who had some chiropractic practice at one time, but has not practiced his profession for the past fifteen years. Dr. FOOTE has lived at the Val de Mar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, for several years. The Val de Mar Hotel is a cheap hotel about eight blocks from where BEVERLY lived. Nothing is known about the possible acquaintance between Dr. FOOTE and BEVERLY. It is possible that some acquaintance of FOOTE, possibly a woman, who was under the influence of Dr. BEVERLY'S East India Cultism to such an extent that she wrote the letters at BEVERLY'S dictation, as [redacted] has stated that Dr. BEVERLY often tried to get her to write letters for him, but she stated that she always declined to write anything for him.

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A copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 21, 1937 was sent to the Chicago office at the time it was made. A photostatic copy of the extortion letter to Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK, and the one to AIMEE SEMPLE MacPHERSON are being sent to the Chicago office for the purpose of interviewing Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY (FRED A. LUTTERMAN). It is suggested that an attempt be made to cause BEVERLY to use some of the expressions in the letters, before the letters are shown to him or the contents of same are revealed to him. One copy of the report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, dated March 2, 1939, is being sent to the Chicago office.

The Chicago office is requested to secure a full length photograph of Dr. BEVERLY, front and side view, for use in endeavoring to have him identified at the Val de Mar Hotel.

While it is not believed that BEVERLY wrote the notes, it is suggested that samples of his handwriting be obtained.

PENDING



Los Angeles, California  
October 27, 1939

Special Agent in Charge  
San Francisco, California

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK,  
ANNA MAY WONG, Victims  
Extortion

Dear Sir:

On March 24, 1939 an extortion letter bearing the signature of A. W. FOOTE, M.D., was received by Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK at Los Angeles, California. On the same date an extortion letter bearing the signature of Dr. A. W. FOOTE was received by AIMEE SEMPLE MacPHERSON; and on the same date an extortion letter bearing the name A. W. FOOTE, M.D., was received by ANNA MAY WONG.

At that time [redacted] of the investigative force of the Los Angeles District Attorney's office; and [redacted] and two of his investigators, [redacted] and [redacted] made an investigation in the case relative to said letters.

[redacted] and his men cooperated with Agents of the FBI at Los Angeles; but it will be seen by the report of Special Agent JAMES C. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, dated March 2, 1939, a copy of which is being enclosed herewith to the San Francisco office, that neither [redacted] nor his associates in this investigation, revealed to the Los Angeles Bureau office that they had interviewed [redacted] or that they had any information relative to FRED A. LUTTERMAN, alias Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY.

Request is being made that [redacted] who is [redacted] at this time, be interviewed fully with respect to this matter and endeavor be made to secure from him all information which he has relative to this matter.

9-2639

RECEIVED

OCT 31 1939

ONE



SAC, San Francisco, Page 2

October 27, 1939

It may be stated here that the statement has often been made to Agents of the Bureau at Los Angeles that these extortion letters were part of a "great publicity stunt," and it is possible that [redacted] has information as to who the parties were who participated in such a plot if one did exist. Effort should be made to obtain all the facts possible from [redacted] which he may have relative to a supposed publicity plot.

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The San Francisco office is requested to return the enclosed report when it has served its purpose, as the Los Angeles office does not have an extra copy of same. There is also being enclosed a copy of a report by Special Agent JAMES G. FIDOLAY dated October 27, 1939.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD,  
Special Agent in Charge

107/10

ENC.

CC Bureau

LA 9-175

RECEIVED  
OCT 28 1939  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 28 1939

RECORDED

RECEIVED  
OCT 28 1939  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

EPC:ON

AIR MAIL

December 27, 1939.

9-2639-55

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MR. DAVID SELZNICK, Victim;  
ANNA MAY WONG, Victim;  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of December 15,  
1939 in connection with the above-entitled matter.

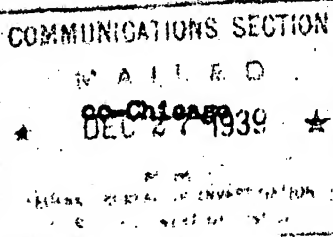
You are advised that no enclosures such as you  
describe in your letter of December 15th were found with  
Agent Findlay's report of October 27, 1939.

There are in the Bureau's files photographic  
copies of these several extortion letters which were made  
in the Bureau at the time of their original submission.  
Copies of Agent Findlay's report of March 2, 1939 are, of  
course, also in the Bureau's files as of the time of original  
submission.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Scott \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



DEC 27 2 51 PM '39  
RECEIVED DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten initials and signatures: "W", "R", "Jh", "R-T", "R"



# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
Los Angeles, California  
December 15, 1939.

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim.  
ANNA MAY WONG - Victim.  
EXTORTION.

A report by Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY on the above-entitled matter, dated October 27, 1939, was transmitted to the Bureau in due course.

At the same time, two copies of said report were sent to the Chicago Office, setting out a lead for that office, and five enclosures were intended to be sent to that office for the use of the Chicago Office in conducting the investigation.

The enclosures were the following:

1. Report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, California, dated March 2, 1939.
2. Photostatic copy of extortion letter to Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK.
3. Photostatic copy of extortion letter to ALICE SEIPLE MacPHERSON.
4. Photostatic copy of a typewritten copy of an extortion letter to ANNA MAY WONG.
5. Loose-leaf book containing poetry and notes on the life of Christ, supposedly written by Dr. BEVERLY. This book was about one inch in thickness, and was bound with a string, and related also to East India Cultism. The name of Dr. BEVERLY, or Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY appeared in a number of places as the author of portions of the book.

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEC 18 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Lab.

Trg.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-13-2007 BY AUC 60324/BAW/RS/lbc

Director

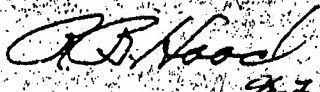
12/15/39

UNSUB, MRS. DAVID SELZNICK -  
Victim.

The Chicago Office has advised that the only enclosure received by that office was the report of Special Agent FINDLAY, dated March 2, 1939.

It appears that the enclosures may have been sent to the Bureau by mistake. Please cause an investigation to be made to locate these enclosures in the Bureau files, and, if found, transmit same to the Chicago Office.

Very truly yours,



R. B. HOOD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

c.c. Chicago.

JGF:IST  
Refer file  
#9-175.



Suite 1726, 111 Sutter  
San Francisco, California  
November 27, 1939

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sir:

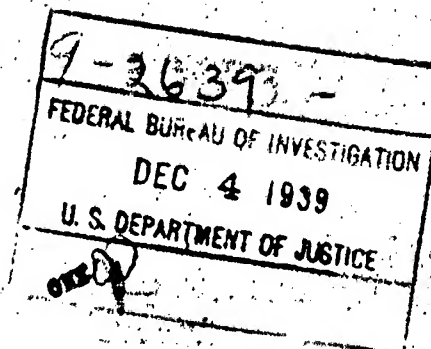
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MRS. DAVID SELENICK, Victim;  
ANNA MAY GONG, Victim  
Extortion

Reference is made to your letter of November 24  
regarding enclosures not received by the Chicago office.  
Please be advised that these were not received at San  
Francisco.

Yours very truly,

N. J. L. PIERCE  
Special Agent in Charge

HJLP:GC  
cc Bureau  
Chicago  
9-188



Los Angeles, California  
November 24, 1939

Special Agent in Charge  
San Francisco, California

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, Victim;  
ANNA MAY WONG, Victim.  
Extortion

Dear Sir:

On October 27, 1939 a letter was written to the San Francisco office, and enclosed with this letter were one copy each of the reports of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, dated March 2, 1939 and October 27, 1939.

At the same time two copies of the report of Special Agent FINDLAY dated October 27, 1939 were sent to the Chicago office; and with these copies the five enclosures mentioned in said report were supposedly also sent to the Chicago office.

A letter has been received from the Chicago office stating that the enclosures were not received there. It is believed that these enclosures, which were intended for the Chicago office, were sent by mistake to the San Francisco office.

Please advise this office if these enclosures were received at San Francisco; and if so, please forward same to the Chicago office.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Special Agent in Charge.

JOF:JC  
LA 9-175  
cc Bureau

|                        |
|------------------------|
| 9-2639-41              |
| NOV 28 1939            |
| U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE |
| ONE                    |

Chicago, Illinois

November 16, 1939

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; MRS. DAVID  
SKLENICK - Victim; ANNA MAY  
SKLENICK - Victim. EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

With reference to the report of Special Agent  
JAMES G. FINDLAY at Los Angeles, California dated  
October 27, 1939, please be informed that the only en-  
closure received at the Chicago Office was a copy of  
Agent FINDLAY'S report dated March 2, 1939.

You are, therefore, requested to forward to  
this office the other enclosures mentioned in Agent  
FINDLAY'S report.

Very truly yours,

W. S. DEVEREAUX  
Special Agent in Charge.

AHJ:EE  
9-301  
cc: Bureau

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 9-2639-                         |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| NOV 20 1939                     |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |



# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
Los Angeles, California  
December 15, 1939

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim.  
ANNA MAY WONG - Victim.  
EXTORTION.

Referring to the report of Inspector [redacted] dated August 17, 1939, please be advised that Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY has made a thorough inspection of the file and reports the following with respect to same:

With respect to Exhibit 1A-(10), referred to in paragraph four of the Inspector's report, please be advised that a check of the file reveals that one photostatic copy of the extortion letter to ANNA MAY WONG, 1A-(10), was obtained from the office of Mr. FITTS, the State District Attorney at Los Angeles, by Special Agent [redacted] and five typewritten copies of this photostat were made, and the one photostatic copy and three typewritten copies of same were sent to the Bureau on March 25, 1937.

No record is found in the file that this photostatic copy, or a copy of same, was ever returned to the Los Angeles Bureau Office by the Bureau. No charge-out had been made on the exhibit envelope for the photostatic copy and the three typewritten copies. There should be two typewritten copies in the Los Angeles file, but only one has been found.

With respect to Exhibit 1A-(9), same being a letter which Dr. A. M. FOOTE received, a check of the file shows that one photostatic copy of this letter was obtained by Special Agent [redacted] from the office of Mr. FITTS, the State District Attorney, and that five typewritten copies were made, and the photostatic copy and three of the typewritten copies were sent to the Bureau, with letter dated March 25, 1937, which would leave two typewritten copies of said letter in the file. These two copies are now in the file.

There is nothing in the file to show that the photostatic copy was returned by the Bureau to the Los Angeles Bureau Office.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Exhibit 1A-(5) was an original fingerprint card of Dr. A. M. FOOTE. Exhibit 1A-(3) was also an original fingerprint card of Dr. A. M. FOOTE. Exhibit 1A-(3) was sent to the Bureau March 25, 1937. There is no record that it was ever returned. It also

9-2639-56  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Director

December 15, 1939      UNSUB, MRS. DAVID SELZNICK -  
Victim, et al.

appears that Exhibit 1A-(5) is an original fingerprint card of Dr. FOOTE, but it is evident that no notation was made on the exhibit envelope to reflect this fact. 1A-(5) is marked on the exhibit envelope as a duplicate of the fingerprint card of Dr. CECIL REYNOLDS. This is evidently in error, as the fingerprint card in the file at the present time is that of Dr. A. M. FOOTE, and the file reflects that the second fingerprint card of Dr. REYNOLDS was sent to the Bureau on April 1, 1937, and has not been returned.

Exhibit 1A-(1) was the original extortion letter which was received by Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK. This original letter was sent to the Bureau March 25, 1937. One photostatic copy of this letter was sent to the Los Angeles Bureau Office by the Bureau. Apparently the receipt of same at Los Angeles was never recorded on the exhibit envelope. This photostatic copy, and eight typewritten copies of same are in the file at the present time, and are recorded on the exhibit envelope.

Exhibit 1A-(6) indicated as a loose-leaf folder, containing sixteen pages of memoranda of the activities of Dr. REYNOLDS, was found in the file, and is marked on the inside of the back cover "L.A. 9-175-1A-(6)".

Exhibit 1A-(16) is an eight-page statement made by Dr. CECIL REYNOLDS, dated March 28, 1937, and signed by Dr. REYNOLDS. It bore no identification mark except the figures "16", but judging from the fact that it is clearly stated that it is the statement of Dr. REYNOLDS, and is signed "Dr. CECIL REYNOLDS", this document is undoubtedly Exhibit 1A-(16). This document is in the file, and it was so marked by Agent FINDLAY on the date Inspector [redacted] inspected the file. b6 b7C

It should be stated here that Agent FINDLAY had no personal information relative to these various exhibits at the time that they were obtained and should have been properly recorded on the exhibit envelope. All of these exhibits were obtained prior to April 4, 1937, and this case was not assigned to Special Agent FINDLAY until February 9, 1938.

The exhibits mentioned in this letter have been marked, and recorded on the exhibit envelope, in accordance with the information set out in this letter.

JGF:IST  
Refer file  
#9-175

Very truly yours,

*R. B. Hood*

R. B. HOOD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

Los Angeles, California  
January 25, 1940

Special Agent in Charge  
Chicago, Illinois

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, Victim;  
ANNA MAY WONG, Victim;  
EXTORTION

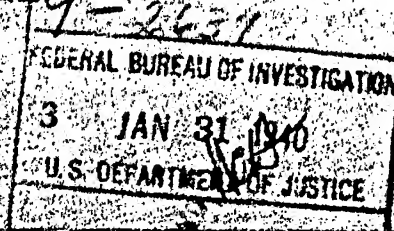
Dear Sir:

Referring to the report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY dated October 27, 1939, relative to the above-entitled matter, two copies of which were sent to the Chicago office and certain other enclosures, four of which became lost or misplaced, please be advised that a re-check has been made in the Los Angeles Bureau Office in an effort to find said enclosures. Effort has also been made at San Francisco and at the Bureau in Washington to locate said enclosures, without success. All of said enclosures can be reproduced except the last one on the list, "a loose-leaf book containing poetry and notes on the life of Christ, supposedly written by Dr. BEVERLY".

There is being enclosed herewith the following exhibits:

- (1) 9-175-1a1 Photostatic copy of the extortion letter to Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK dated Los Angeles, California, March 24, 1937, in three pages.
- (2) 9-175-1a12 Photostatic copy of the extortion letter undated, beginning "My dear ALGER; - I have just been released," etc. Signed Dr. A. M. FOOTE, Waldemar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, California, in two pages.

The extortion letter to ANNA MAY WONG is not being enclosed for the reason that the Los Angeles Office does not have a photostatic copy of said letter. A typewritten copy of this letter appears in the report of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, California, dated April 21, 1937, copies of which were furnished to the Chicago office at that time.



Special Agent in Charge  
Chicago, Illinois

- 2 -

January 25, 1940

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
HRS. DAVID SELZNICK, Victim;  
ANNA MAY WONG, Victim;  
Extortion

Please proceed with the investigation requested in the report of Special Agent JAMES J. FINDLAY dated October 27, 1939, in an effort to locate and obtain a statement and other pertinent information from FRED A. LUTTERMAN who undoubtedly is the same individual as the party who passed as Dr. BRUCE C. BEVERLY in Los Angeles.

The two above-mentioned exhibits are being transmitted by registered mail, and it is requested that same be returned to the Los Angeles Bureau Office when they have served their purpose.

Please expedite this investigation and submit report at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

H. B. HOOD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

JGF:ESP  
9-175  
Registered Mail  
cc Bureau

RECEIVED CHICAGO

JAN 27 1940

CHICAGO ONE  
JAN 27 1940



Los Angeles, California  
January 25, 1940

Special Agent in Charge  
San Francisco, California

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
MRS. DAVID GELZNIK, Victim;  
ANNA MAY WOOD, Victim;  
EXTORTION

Dear Sir:

On October 27, 1939, a letter and a copy of two reports of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, one dated March 2, 1939, the other dated October 27, 1939, were sent to the San Francisco office requesting that [redacted]

[redacted] be interviewed and a full statement be obtained from him relative to this matter.

To date no report has been received covering this lead. Please cause the necessary investigation to be conducted and report covering same submitted at the earliest possible date.

Yours very truly,

JOP:RSP  
cc Bureau  
9-175

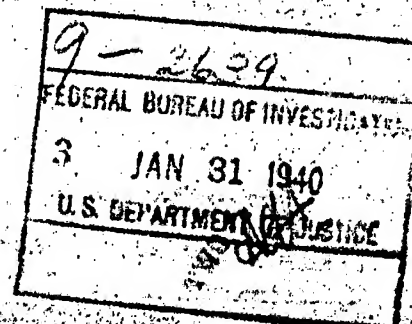
R. B. HOOD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

b6  
b7C

RECEIVED  
F B I

JAN 31 1940

DIVISION ONE  
RECEIVED





9-175

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, MRS. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim, ANNA MAY WONG,  
Victim.

Inspector Connelley

This matter is again delinquent in that the last attention given same was reflected in the report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, July 6, 1939, reporting the last investigative action as of June 9, 1939.

It is believed that the investigation in this case has been allowed to digress at various tangents inconsistent with the possibilities reflected in the case, particularly in view of the definite identification of the handwriting of DR. A. M. FOOTE. This indicated that undoubtedly DR. A. M. FOOTE is responsible for the extortion letters concerned in this case. Also the various circumstances as reflected in the investigation carried on would seem to indicate that he is the responsible party. It is believed that the title of the case should have been changed accordingly from UNKNOWN SUBJECT when this definite identification was made.

In view of the definite identification of the handwriting of DR. A. M. FOOTE, it is believed that the subsequent investigation in this should not be allowed to continue as toward various other suspects unless there is some possibility connecting their activities with the activities of DR. A. M. FOOTE, who seems to be the responsible party in this case. The developments in this case indicate little to prove that DR. FOOTE is the Subject in this case other than the identification of his handwriting, and at this late date it is doubtful whether any direct possibilities present themselves at this time. The matter should be brought to some conclusion if there is no possibility of establishing the guilt of the suspect, DR. A. M. FOOTE.

In connection with Exhibit 1A 10 referred to as photographic copy and five typed copies of original letter in envelope postmarked March 22, 1937, addressed to Victim WONG, this exhibit does not appear in the exhibit envelope. It is not charged out and is not indicated as disposed of in the exhibit envelope. There is one typed copy of the letter addressed to "DEAR ANNA," dated at Los Angeles March 24, 1937, in the file, and it is probable that the balance of this material was forwarded to the Bureau about March 25, 1937, as will be noted by reference to Item 1A 9. There is in the file an exhibit

Inspection Report  
Los Angeles Office  
Inspector    
August 17, 1939

9-2637

ACM

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9-173

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, Victim, ANNA MAY WOMO,  
Victim.

Inspector [ ] (Continued)

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b7C

designated as 1A 5, which is an original fingerprint card of ARTHUR M. FOOTE. This was probably originally a duplicate copy of this, as is reflected in Exhibit 1A 3, the latter being forwarded to the Bureau March 25, 1937. It is noted that Exhibit 1A 5, as indicated on the exhibit envelope is supposedly the fingerprint card in duplicate of DR. CHEIL E. REYNOLDS, which was forwarded to the Bureau March 25, 1937. Serial 1A 1, as indicated on the exhibit envelope, is supposedly the original extortion letter and envelope postmarked March 22, 1937, addressed to Victim SELZNICK, which was forwarded to the Bureau March 25, 1937. There are included in the exhibit envelope as Serial 1A 1 now, eight typewritten carbon copies of the letter of March 24, 1937, addressed to MRS. DAVID SELZNICK. Exhibit 1A 6, indicated as a loose leaf folder containing memoranda of activities of DR. REYNOLDS forwarded to the Bureau March 25, 1937, and returned by the Bureau April 19, 1937, cannot be readily identified from the exhibits in the file. This may be a duplication of Item 1A 16.

All of these exhibits should be adequately accounted for and the various exhibit envelopes marked accordingly.

S.A.C. Hood

The facts of this case will be discussed with the Agent to whom the case is assigned and it will be brought to a conclusion in the immediate future.

Inspection Report  
Los Angeles Office  
Inspector [ ]  
August 17, 1939

b6  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **9-188**

|   |                                  |   |                                       |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>San Francisco, Calif.</b>  | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>2/16/40</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>2/14/40</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>RMH</b>          |
| TITLE<br><b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT,<br/>Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim;<br/>ANNA MAY WONG - Victim</b> |                                  |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>EXTORTION</b> |

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

**[redacted] formerly [redacted]**  
Los Angeles District Attorney's Office,  
unable to recall or furnish additional  
details concerning DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY.  
**[redacted]** reported that he consid-  
ered the extortion letter received by  
cinema actress ANNA MAY WONG a "publicity  
stunt" when first reported, however, upon  
the receipt of a similar letter by Mrs.  
DAVID SELZNICK he immediately abandoned  
this theory and consequently was unable  
to furnish information concerning the  
existence of such a publicity plot or  
individuals identified therewith.

b6  
b7C

-RUC-

**Reference:**

Letter from the Los Angeles Office to  
San Francisco Office dated 10/27/39.

**AT REPRESA, CALIFORNIA**

**[redacted]** advised that **[redacted]** investigative staff maintained  
by the District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California on March 24,  
1937 **[redacted]** the investigation of the attempt by unknown indiv-  
iduals to extort money from cinema actress ANNA MAY WONG, Mrs. DAVID  
SELZNICK and ALEX SELPLE MacPHERSON.

b6  
b7C

|  |                            |                              |                   |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| APPROVED AND<br>FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>  | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |                   |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT  |                            | <b>1-2639-57</b>             | <b>MAR 1 1940</b> |
| <b>③ - Bureau</b><br>1 - Chicago (Information)<br>2 - Los Angeles (encl.)<br>2 - San Francisco |                            | <b>FEB 23 A.M.</b>           |                   |
|  |                            | <b>TWO CHARGES</b>           |                   |



[redacted] explained that he did not have an independent recollection of the details of the investigation, however, he did recall the essential phases thereof.

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b7C

The facts generally developed in this investigation by the Los Angeles County, California, District Attorney's Office as reported from the reports of that office in the report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, California, dated 3/2/39, were reviewed with [redacted] however, he has been unable to recall an interview with [redacted]

[redacted] did recall DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, alias FRED A. LUTTERMAN, being considered as a suspect but upon the elimination of this suspect upon the basis of a handwriting comparison by a handwriting expert of the Los Angeles Police Department further active investigation in connection with this suspect was not undertaken. [redacted] was unable to furnish additional information to that contained in the files of the District Attorney's Office as reported in the report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY above.

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b7C

[redacted] has also been questioned concerning the existence of a "publicity stunt" in connection with these extortion letters. [redacted] stated in this instance he at first attributed the extortion letter received by cinema actress ANNA MAY WONG to be a publicity enterprise, however, upon the receipt of a similar letter by Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK he abandoned this theory. [redacted] was unable, therefore, to furnish information concerning the existence of such a plot or the identity of individuals responsible therefor.

ENCLOSURE

TO LOS ANGELES OFFICE: Copy of report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, Calif., dated 3/2/39.

R. U. C.



Q<sub>1</sub> & Q<sub>2</sub> written in ink on pieces of white linen. Fine  
paper containing no watermarks

Q<sub>1</sub> 8.00x10.08x.0037 Wgt 4.198 Subst 72

Q<sub>2</sub> 8.00x10.08x.0034 Wgt 3.784 Subst 70

Q<sub>3</sub> is white linen. Fine envelope containing  
watermark "Lora Baltimore, Linen"

5.38x3.40x.0048 Wgt 3.783 United Drug Co

Greenleaf, Leonard & Co  
Boston

know

I you may have of

Q I AM Foote MD L9  
the not 606 So Hope St

K, the to not 606 So Hope St

the I you may have  
AM Foote L9

LEB:KRM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC-100

9-5619

9-2639

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

February 20, 1940.

Transmit the following message to: SAC, Los Angeles

RE UNSUB [REDACTED] CONCLUDED LETTER AND ENVELOPE THIS CASE  
WRITTEN BY DR A. M. FOOTE WRITER OF LETTERS IN CASE ENTITLED UNSUB MRS.  
DAVID SELENICK VIKER ANNA MAY WONG VIKER LOS ANGELES OFFICE ORIGIN  
HOOVER

b6  
b7C

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 20 1940

POSTAL

9227 VIA

9-2639-5

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEB 23 1940

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FOR

February 29, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: Interesting Identification in the  
Anonymous Letter File.

Your attention is invited to another interesting  
identification made as a result of a search through the Bureau's  
of Anonymous Communications.

Under date of February 7, 1940 the Los Angeles Field  
Division transmitted a letter and envelope to the Bureau for  
examination in the Technical Laboratory in the case entitled  
Unknown Subject; [redacted] Victim; Extortion, Bureau  
File #9-2639. As a result of a search made of these specimens  
through the Anonymous Letter File in the Laboratory, [redacted]  
assigned to [redacted] identified  
these specimens as having been written by the writer of the  
specimens received in connection with the case entitled Unknown  
Subject; Mr. David Belanick, Victim; Anna May Wong, Victim;  
Extortion, Bureau File #9-2639, with specimens which had  
previously been identified as having been written by Dr. A.  
Toute.

b6  
b7C

The Los Angeles Field Division was notified telegraphically  
this identification.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 9-2639-59                       |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| MAR 5 1940                      |
| U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE           |
| RECEIVED                        |

ORIGINAL FILED IN



KES:RTM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

33346

February 29, 1940  
Laboratory Report

9-2639

Case:

Unknown Subject;  
Extortion. - Victim;

Number: 9-5619 - 1

Specimens:

- 9-5619-1 Q1 Envelope postmarked "Los Angeles, Calif. Arcade Annex, Jan. 22, 1940,  
L. A. M."  
Q2 First sheet of accompanying letter, message beginning "On Monday  
Jan. 15th there stood in front..."  
Q3 Second sheet of accompanying letter beginning "the septum drawing  
said."

b6  
b7C

Examination requested by:

Date received:

Los Angeles

Examination requested:

2-9-40

Result of examination:

Document - Fingerprint

Examination by:

It was concluded that specimens Q1 through Q3 were  
written by Doctor A. E. Woot, who was concluded to have written  
specimens Q1 through Q10 in the case entitled Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick, Victim; Anna May Wong, Victim; Extortion;  
Bureau File #9-2639 of which Los Angeles is the office of origin.

This is in confirmation of the Bureau's teletype dated  
February 20, 1940.

Specimen Q1 is a white, linen finish envelope upon  
which the address was handwritten with a blue-black ink. This  
specimen is approximately 5.97" - 5.98" in length, 3.52" in  
width, .0048" - .0050" in thickness, weighs 3.227 grams, has  
an opacity value of .93 - .94 and has the watermark "Eytone".  
According to the reference files in the Bureau this watermark  
is registered for the Western Tablet and Stationery Company,  
11th and Mitchell Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri.

9-2639-60



February 29, 1940

Specimen Q2 is a white, linen finish sheet of stationery upon which the message was handwritten with blue-black ink. This specimen is approximately 9.90" in length, 7.91" in width, .0045" in thickness, weighs 4.555 grams, has an opacity value of .91 - .94 and has no watermark. Specimen Q3 is similar to specimen Q2 in physical characteristics.

A report on the fingerprint examination is being transmitted separately. One photographic copy of specimens Q1 through Q3 will be transmitted to your office within the next several days.

The original evidence is being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

2-Bureau (9-2639)  
 2-Los Angeles  
 2-Laboratory (9-2639)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ponder \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

STANDARD FORM NO. 14A  
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT  
MARCH 10, 1926

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 7-1-28

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHARGE FBI LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
527 U. S. POST OFFICE & COURT HOUSE

TELEGRAM VIA WESTERN UNION  
MARCH 7, 1940

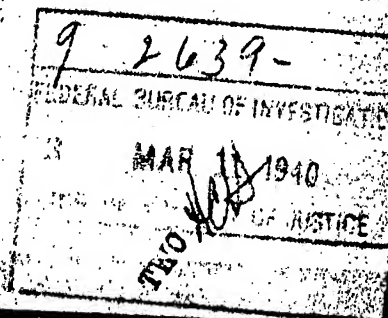
[REDACTED]  
FBI JUSTICE  
1900 BANKERS' BUILDING  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

UNSUB MRS. DAVID SELZNICK, VICTIM. REFER LETTER JANUARY TWENTYFIFTH  
LAST. EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, TOLLS  
TWENTYTHIRD INSTANT.

HOOD

JGF/ph  
9-175

✓cc Bureau



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 9-301

|  |                                  |   |                                       |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>Chicago, Illinois</b>   | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>3/21/40</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>2/12, 15;<br/>3/12, 15, 19/40</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>[REDACTED]</b>   |
| TITLE<br><b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT;<br/>Mrs. DAVID SELZNICK - Victim<br/>ANNA MAY WONG - Victim</b> |                                  |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>EXTORTION</b> |

IND-40

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

FRED A. LUTTERMAN, alias DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY denies all knowledge of instant extortion letter. He stated that DR. A. M. FOOTE, the Val de Mar Hotel or anyone there is unknown to him. He was at Los Angeles from about December 15, 1936 to about March 15, 1937 and resided at the Greenwood Apartments and then returned to Chicago. [REDACTED] is one of the two women that visited him there. Identity of the second woman unknown and the whereabouts of both unknown. LUTTERMAN was photographed and fingerprinted and a specimen of his handwriting obtained.

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RECEIVED - CHICAGO  
MAR 22 1940

RECEIVED - CHICAGO  
MAR 22 1940

DETAILS: LHM: 40

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]  
October 27, 1939 at Los Angeles, California  
G-2 DEPT OF JUSTICE

At Chicago, Illinois:  
RECEIVED

FRED A. LUTTERMAN, alias DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, is located at 477 Deming Place, Chicago, Illinois, where he is residing with his wife and her brother.

LABORATORY  
LIFE 2 SECTION

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Chicago
- 4 - Los Angeles (enc) Airmail

MAR 25 P.M.

MAR 30 1940



He first met his wife in Chicago about the first part of April 1937. Several addresses were checked prior to locating LUTTERMAN and in each instance it was found that he had left no forwarding address. It appears that he leaves each place of residence owing small sums of money to various people.

At the Veterans Administration at Hines, Illinois, the records reflected that they had him listed as FRED A. LUTTERMAN and that he recently changed his name to DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, with an address at 4020 Clarendon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. A few days prior to this interview he had notified the Veterans Administration Facility as to his present address on Deming Place so that they could forward to him his disability allowance of \$7.50 per month.

LUTTERMAN related that prior to 1936 he was lecturing in Chicago on religion and that through these religious meetings he met MRS. MARIE MAC DONALD, a widow woman of about 60 years of age who was residing at 865 Rush Street with friends.

She and LUTTERMAN decided on a trip to Los Angeles and she purchased an old model Cadillac coupe and had the title entered in LUTTERMAN'S name. LUTTERMAN could give no explanation as to why this was done. He stated that they left Chicago the first part of November 1936 and arrived at San Bernardino, California, about November 15, 1936 where they lived at the Marland Hotel on H Street in separate rooms. He stated that the only person they knew there was [redacted] b6 b7C

About December 15, 1937 he and MRS. MAC DONALD drove to Los Angeles where he registered at the Greenwood Apartments, 833 West Ninth Street and that MRS. MAC DONALD established her residence at a little hotel on Ninth and Figueroa Street, near the Greenwood Apartments. He stated that a short time later she and a lady friend, identity unknown, moved to an apartment on Sixth Street, about one block south and three blocks west from the Greenwood Apartments. He stated that these two women became devout followers of the great "I Am", the Saint Germaine series of teaching. He returned to Chicago alone about March 15, 1937.



LUTTERMAN during an extensive interview and subsequent questioning, insisted that he does not know the whereabouts of MARIE MAC DONALD or the identity of her woman friend. He stated that he has not heard from MARIE MAC DONALD since leaving Los Angeles. LUTTERMAN accompanied the writer to 865 Rush Street where MRS. MAC DONALD formerly resided in Chicago, and it was found that the building at that address had been demolished about two years ago and all local inquiries were negative.

LUTTERMAN related that during the trip from Chicago to Los Angeles with MARIE MAC DONALD he spent about \$47 on repairs on the automobile; that the two women that called on him at the Greenwood Apartments were MARIE MAC DONALD and her woman companion, and that MRS. MAC DONALD on several occasions had requested him to transfer the title on the automobile from his name and that he had refused to do so until she had reimbursed him for the \$47 he had spent for repairs on the automobile.

He stated that she consulted an attorney by the name of [redacted] and that he endeavored to have the title transferred to MRS. MAC DONALD. LUTTERMAN stated that [redacted] was also a follower of the "I AM" teachings and that he is sure that [redacted] will know the present whereabouts of MARIE MAC DONALD and her woman companion. LUTTERMAN admitted that he knew a [redacted] but stated that the Val deMar Hotel, 606 South Polk Street, Los Angeles is entirely unknown to him; that he has never been in that hotel and knows no one who ever resided there or frequented that hotel, and that a MR. FOOTE is unknown to him. He denies all knowledge of the extortion letters and further stated he never heard or read about them; that he did not work while at Los Angeles and had gone there with the intention of writing a story on the life of Christ and His teachings.

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He stated that the only one he consulted in this regard was a [redacted] an author's agent with offices on Hollywood Boulevard. He stated that he did not meet her personally but wrote her and that he had obtained her address from the "Writers Digest" magazine.

Throughout the interview LUTTERMAN exhibited normal mentality and exhibited a desire to cooperate in the investigation. He furnished a specimen of his handwriting which is being forwarded to the Los Angeles Office with a copy of this report. He was also photographed at the Chicago Bureau Office and two copies of the photographs, which are full length, front and side prints, are being sent to the Los Angeles Office herewith.

His fingerprints were also obtained and they are being forwarded to the Bureau under separate cover, with the request that they furnish his known criminal record to the Los Angeles Office.

Delay in completing this investigation was due to the fact that LUTTERMAN had moved, leaving no forwarding address and he was not located until he had notified the Veterans Administration of his present address.

The following descriptions were obtained from LUTTERMAN through observation and interrogation:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| NAME:          | FRED A. LUTTERMAN, alias                    |
| Age            | 38 - Bruce C. Beverly                       |
| Height         | 5'9 1/2"                                    |
| Weight         | 165   |
| Hair           | Dark Brown - bald on top                    |
| Eyes           | Light brown                                 |
| Complexion     | Ruddy                                       |
| Build          | Medium - good                               |
| Marital Status | Married - No children                       |
| Occupation     | Lecturer and salesman of religious matters. |
| Schooling      | Eight grade                                 |
| Relatives      |   |

He claims that he has no criminal record. He was photographed and fingerprinted at the Chicago Bureau Office. He enlisted in the Navy in Chicago in 1919, served one year and received disability discharge. Receives \$7.50 per month compensation.

Description of MARIE MAC DONALD

|                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| NAME           | MARIE MAC DONALD                |
| Age            | 60                              |
| Height         | 5'9"                            |
| Weight         | 150                             |
| Hair           | Gray                            |
| Eyes           | Blue                            |
| Complexion     | Dark                            |
| Nationality    | Stated that she was half Indian |
| Marital Status | Widow with two sons             |

Description of the other woman, companion of MARIE MAC DONALD

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| NAME   | Unknown |
| Age    | 40      |
| Height | 5'3"    |
| Weight | 125     |
| Hair   | Dark    |
| Build  | Medium  |

LUTTERMAN stated that this woman is a teacher of "I AM" and "Unity" classes on Western Avenue and Wilshire, or Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, in a large office building on the corner.

ENCLOSURES:

Los Angeles Field Division:

Two photographs of FRED A. LUTTERMAN. Also specimen of his handwriting.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

Los Angeles Field Division:

At Los Angeles, California, will interview [redacted]

[redacted] for information as to the whereabouts of MARIE MAC DONALD and possibly her woman companion.

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At the Van deMar Hotel 606 South Polk Street, will exhibit the photograph of FRED A. LUTTERMAN, alias DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY to determine if he is known in that hotel.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

|  |                           |   |                                    |
|--|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>Los Angeles, California  | DATE WHEN MADE<br>3/26/40 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>3/7, 14, 18, 19, & 21/40 | REPORT MADE BY<br>JAMES G. FINDLAY |
| TITLE<br>UNKNOWN SUBJECT;<br>MR. DAVID SELZNICK, Victim;<br>MISS KAY WONG, Victim; |                           |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION     |

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

The suspect, DR. A. M. FOOTE, was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and reporting Agent. He denied any connection with, or knowledge of the authorship of the extortion letters. The case was presented to Assistant U. S. Attorney WM. FLEET MILLER, who declined prosecution. Recent extortion letter was presented to the Los Angeles Bureau office by [redacted] and the Technical Laboratory of the Bureau has determined that this letter was written by DR. FOOTE. Appropriate investigation is being conducted in this matter and reports are being submitted covering same.

FROM OFFICE  
FILED SECTION

MAR 5 11 26 AM '40

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## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, California, dated 10/27/39.  
Letter to the Bureau dated 12/15/39.  
Letter to the Chicago Field Division dated 1/25/40.  
Telegram to the Chicago Office dated 2/7/40.  
Letter to the Bureau dated 3/20/40, entitled "UNKNOWN SUBJECT; [redacted] Victim; EXTORTION."

## DETAILS:

### AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

On October 27, 1939, the San Francisco Office was requested to interview [redacted] who is at the present time [redacted] but who was [redacted]

|   |   |
|---|---|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><i>[Signature]</i><br>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES<br>9-12637-62<br>MAR 28 P.M.<br>APR 2 1940 |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>3 - Bureau<br>2 - Chicago<br>1 - U.S. Attorney, Los Angeles<br>4 - Los Angeles (2 - 9-100) |   |

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the Los Angeles State District Attorney's Office and who supervised the investigation which was made by that office at the time the extortion letters were mailed.

[redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] of the San Francisco Office, as is shown by his report dated February 16, 1940, from which it will be noted that [redacted] was unable to furnish information which would aid in the solution of this case.

On the same date, the Chicago Office was requested to locate FRED A. LUTTERMAN alias DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, through the Veterans Bureau at Hynes, Illinois, and interview him relative to certain features of this case. So far, no report has been received covering this lead.

On March 7, 1940, [redacted] reported to the Los Angeles Bureau Office that a letter had been returned to her home address, which had been addressed to [redacted] letter bore the name of [redacted] as the author and on the outside of the envelope, it bore the return address, [redacted] which is [redacted] home address. This letter contained a threat of serious bodily harm to [redacted] but it contained no demand for money. This letter was sent to the Bureau under the title, "UNKNOWN SUBJECT; [redacted] Victim: EXTORTION", (Los Angeles File [redacted]) for appropriate technical examination and report. The decision of the Laboratory experts is that the handwriting in this letter is the same as that in the letters addressed to MRS. DAVID SELZNICK; MISS ANNA MAY WONG and AIMEE SIMPLE MacPHERSON in instant file.

The extortion letters in instant case were signed "Dr. A. M. Foote, Val De Mar Hotel, 606 South Hope Street, Phone Trinity 6931", which was the home of DR. FOOTE. In a Laboratory report dated August 25, 1937, the decision was reached that the handwriting in these extortion letters was the handwriting of DR. A. M. FOOTE.

In a letter dated September 1, 1937, from the Bureau it was stated, - "Although the experts in the Technical Laboratory have identified Dr. A. M. Foote through handwriting comparisons as the author of instant extortion communications, inasmuch as the handwriting identification is the only affirmative evidence thus far developed against Dr. Foote, it is not desired that he be taken into custody at this time. You are requested, however, to keep the Bureau informed as to all developments in this case."

Considerable effort has been made to obtain some corroborative evidence, without success. As the Statute of Limitations would so on

on instant case, DR. A. M. FOOTE was brought to the Los Angeles Office and interviewed at great length in an effort to obtain some admission from him which would be of value. DR. FOOTE stated that he never saw ANNA MAY WONG in his life; that he did not know there was such a woman as MRS. DAVID SELZNICK prior to this interview, and that he did not know the SELZNICK family. Further, he stated that he has seen ADOLPH SELPLE MacPHERSON only one or two times in his life, adding that he had gone to her Temple as a matter of curiosity on one or two occasions. He stated he did not know DR. CECIL REYNOLDS, DR. BRUCE C. BEVERLY, FRED A. LUTTERMAN, [redacted] or [redacted].

DR. FOOTE emphatically denied that he wrote the letters and was also just as emphatic in asserting that he did not know who wrote them. He was informed that the laboratory experts had reached the conclusion that the handwriting was his, and he stated he could not help that, as he had cooperated fully and was still ready to cooperate and willing to cooperate in solving the case. b6 b7C

Special Agent [redacted] and reporting Agent interviewed DR. FOOTE at some length about the [redacted] Victim, case (L. A. File [redacted] in which the Technical Laboratory has reached the conclusion that DR. FOOTE is the author of the extortion letter in said case. DR. FOOTE offered his cooperation and assistance and, instead of getting new samples of DR. FOOTE's handwriting, Agent [redacted] and Agent went with DR. FOOTE to his room in the Val De Mar Hotel and there obtained a large number of samples of handwriting which DR. FOOTE stated were his handwriting and which he voluntarily and freely loaned to Agents so that same could be sent to the Bureau's Laboratory for examination and comparison. These samples have been submitted to the Bureau in the case entitled "UNKNOWN SUBJECT; [redacted] Victim; EXTORTION" (L. A. File [redacted]).

Special Agent [redacted] and reporting Agent presented both cases to Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM FLEET PALMER. MR. PALMER declined prosecution of DR. FOOTE in instant case (L. A. 9-175), stating that since there is no corroborating evidence, he did not believe a conviction could be secured. However, MR. PALMER stated unhesitatingly that the letter in the [redacted] case (L. A. [redacted]) is a violation of the law; that if corroborating evidence can be secured, same will be presented to the Grand Jury, and prosecution instituted. b6 b7C

As stated above, considerable investigation has been conducted in an effort to show DR. FOOTE's connection with the [redacted] case and further investigation is being made. Handwriting specimens of DR. FOOTE have already been sent to the Bureau and investigative reports under that title will be submitted at an early date, covering the Laboratory's examination.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

AT CHICAGO and HYNES, ILLINOIS, will carry out the leads set out in the report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, dated October 27, 1939; the letter from the Los Angeles Office to Chicago dated January 25, 1940, and Los Angeles telegram to Chicago, dated March 7, 1940. As FOOTE is the suspect in the new case, it is desired that MR. REVERLY be interviewed the same as if DR. FOOTE were to be prosecuted in the first case.

- P E N D I N G -



9-2139 #

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CAA:KJ

34236

Laboratory Report

Case:

March 30, 1940

Number:

Unknown Subject

- Victim

9-5619-7 b6

Specimens: Extortion b7C

See attached page.

Examination requested by:

Date received:

Los Angeles

Examination requested:

3-23-40

Result of examination:

Document - Fingerprint

Examination by:

As requested, the additional known writings of suspect [redacted] K12, and of [redacted] K16, were compared with the questioned writings in this case and in the case Bureau File 9-5639 entitled, Unknown Subjects, Mrs. David Belenick - Victim; Anna May Wong - Victim; Extortion. Identification of the questioned writings in these two cases was previously reported. It was concluded that neither [redacted] K12, nor [redacted] K16, wrote the questioned writings.

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Comparison of the additional writings of Dr. Arthur M. Foote, K1, with the questioned writings confirms the previous conclusion that Dr. Arthur M. Foote wrote the questioned writings.

It was concluded that none of the known samples of stationery is similar to any of the questioned stationery.

The ink, K11, used by Dr. Foote was compared with that on the questioned writings and it was concluded that this is a different ink, K11 being an iron ink and the questioned writing a dye ink, such as is used in fountain pens.



Page two.  
Laboratory Report #84256

The original specimens of known writings K1, K13 and K16 will be returned under separate cover as soon as photographs are completed for the Laboratory which will be in the next few days. In this connection your letter refers to 22 pieces of paper containing the specimens of Dr. Foote, K1, whereas there were found in the envelope 21 pieces.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Melton \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Pers. Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

2 Bureau (1 - 9-2639)  
2 Los Angeles  
2 Laboratory (1 - 9-2639)

1 Known handwriting of Dr. Arthur M. Foote consisting of the following:

20 small pieces of paper and sheet bearing letterhead of Hotel Van De Mar and containing writing on the reverse side. (These 21 pieces of paper represent part of a loose leaf diary kept by suspect Foote).

Two plain white envelopes taken from possession of suspect Foote.  
One plain faded white envelope taken from possession of suspect Foote.  
One plain white envelope taken from possession of suspect Foote.

P 3 One plain faded white envelope taken from possession of suspect Foote.  
P 4 One plain white envelope taken from possession of suspect Foote.  
P 5 One plain white envelope taken from possession of suspect Foote.

X 4 One plain white envelope taken from possession of suspect  
X 5 One plain white envelope taken from possession of suspect. Foots.

K 5 One plain white envelope taken from possession of suspect Foote.  
K 6 White envelope marked in the lower left-hand

K 8 White envelope marked in the upper left-hand corner the following:  
"After 5 days, Return To-----Long Beach, Cal." which was taken  
from possession of suspect Foote.

X 7 Sheet of white paper taken from possession of suspect Foote containing the printing at the top "Los Angeles, California"

X 8 Sheet of white paper bearing letterhead

K 8 Sheet of white paper bearing letterhead reading "Plesch's Foods Ltd.", taken from possession of Dr. Arthur Foots.

K 9 Half sheet of writing paper, white in color, taken from Dr. Foote.  
K10 Large sheet of white paper taken from [redacted] taken from Dr. Foote.

K10 Large sheet of white paper, white in color, taken from Dr. Foot  
K11 Sheet of paper containing sample of ink with writing as follows:  
"Carters Midnight Blue Black Permanent Rite".  
K12 Known handwriting of [redacted]

Known handwriting of suspect [redacted] consisting of 15 cancelled checks of the Bank of America, Los Angeles, California, signed together with bank stamps.

and memorandum of Monthly Service Charge. (These last two do not appear to be for examination). The following were also submitted: 19 sheets of miscellaneous paper and 1 envelope addressed to J. W. Robinson Company in print and showing return address in name of [redacted]

K13 Sheet of white paper taken from possession of  
K14 Plain white envelope

K16 Plain white envelope taken from

K15 Plain white envelope of larger size than in K14, taken from [redacted]

K16 Known handwriting of [redacted] consisting of envelope postmarked "Palm Springs, California, January 18, 1940, 3 P. M." and two-page letter beginning "Is this a trip...".

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

April 27, 1960  
Number:

9-5619-8

Specimen Substrate  
[redacted] Writing  
Specimen Substrate

K7 Two photostatic copies of a check dated 12/27/59 containing  
the known handwriting of [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Examination requested by:

Date received: Los Angeles

Examination requested: April 8, 1960

Result of examination: Document

Examination by:

As requested by your office, the known handwriting of [redacted]  
listed above as specimen K7, was compared with the questioned writing  
in the instant case. It has been concluded that [redacted] did not write  
specimens Q1 through Q3 in the instant case or specimens listed as 9-5619 Q1  
to Q31 inclusive. The latter specimens are in the case entitled, Unknown  
Subjects, Mrs. David Belandier, Victim; Anna May King, Victim; [redacted]

Laboratory Report #1346 dated February 27, 1960 and #1474 dated  
March 30, 1960, state that the conclusion has been reached that the writer  
of the questioned material in the instant case is Dr. Arthur H. Futo.

The original evidence submitted is being retained in the files of  
the Laboratory for use in any subsequent conclusions which may be desired.

2-Dureau (1 for file 9-5619)  
2-Laboratory (1 for file 9-5619)

9-5619-8



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 9-175

|                          |                           |                                  |  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| CALIFORNIA               | DATE WHEN MADE<br>6-24-40 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>6-24-40 | REPORT MADE BY<br>JAMES G. FINDLAY HAH |
| TICK, Victim;<br>Victim. |                           |                                  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>EXTORTION         |

Assistant U. S. Attorney W.L. FLEET PALMER declined prosecution in this case but stated he would prosecute Dr. A. M. FOOTE in the case "Unknown Subject; [redacted] Victim," Extortion, I.A. file No. [redacted] if evidence could be obtained corroborating the findings of the Bureau Laboratory that Dr. FOOTE is the author of the extortion letter in case No. [redacted] Instant case is closed.

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- C -

Report of Special Agent [redacted] Chicago, Illinois, dated 3-21-40.

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Report of Special Agent JAMES G. FINDLAY, Los Angeles, California, dated 3-26-40.

Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM FLEET PALMER declined prosecution in this matter for the reason that no evidence has been developed which corroborates the

|  |  |                              |             |
|--|--|------------------------------|-------------|
| SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE<br><i>A. C. ...</i>                        |  | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |             |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT  |  | 9-12639 + 65                 | JUL 22 1940 |
| 3 - Bureau<br>1 - SAC, Los Angeles<br>1 - LA 9-400<br>2 - LA 9-175 |  | JUL 1 AMY<br>[initials]      |             |



9-175

findings of the Bureau Laboratory that Dr. A. M. FOOTE is the author of the extortion letters in this case.

SUBJECT: The Bureau Laboratory report in the case "UNKNOWN-  
Number [redacted] Victim; EXTORTION; Los Angeles File  
[redacted] is that Dr. A. M. FOOTE is the author of the extor-  
tion letter in that case.

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Mr. PALMER stated that the extortion letter in the last-mentioned case constitutes a violation of the Extortion Statute, and that he will prosecute Dr. FOOTE for said violation if some corroboration of the Laboratory report can be developed.

C L O S E D

9-2639-66  
missing

9-2639

DR. A. M. FOOTE;  
[redacted] Victim;  
MRS. DAVID SOLEZNICK, Victim;  
ANNA MAY HONG, Victim;  
EXTORTION

b6  
b7C

In this case three separate anonymous letters were tied together by means of a search through the Anonymous Letter File. On February 7, 1943, the Los Angeles Field Division transmitted an extortion letter for examination in their case entitled "Unknown Subject, [redacted] Victim; Extortion". This letter was searched through the Anonymous Letter File in the Laboratory and was identified with extortion letters in Bureau file 9-2639 which had been sent to Mrs. David Soleznick and to Anna May Hong. It was then determined in the Laboratory that the earlier letters to Mrs. Soleznick and to Anna May Hong had been previously positively identified by Laboratory examiners as having been written by Dr. A. M. Foote. A telegram was immediately sent to Los Angeles advising the field office to consolidate their two investigations in these cases and informing them that Dr. A. M. Foote was identified as the writer of all the letters. The Los Angeles office was unable to uncover sufficient investigative evidence against Dr. Foote and the U. S. Attorney declined to prosecute and the case was closed.

In spite of the fact that no prosecution was had in this case, it is very obvious that the Anonymous Letter File saved a large amount of investigation time of Special Agents in the field. Furthermore, these identifications undoubtedly made a favorable impression on the victim and the U. S. Attorney in the case even though prosecution was not instituted. It is further pointed out that Dr. Foote, because of these identifications, is now definitely outside as a dangerous type of individual from the extortion letter standpoint and it is very reasonable to expect that if he subsequently attempts further criminal activity of this nature he will be readily identified in the Laboratory and if he be subsequently prosecuted for another offense undoubtedly these previous extortion attempts of his could be used against him.

R

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED

9-2639-67

DEC 7 1944

61 DEC 20 1944



STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HBL:NLC

TO : E. P. COFFEY *EC*  
FROM :   
SUBJECT: Unknown Subject;  
Mrs. David Selznick, victim;  
Anna May Wong, victim;  
Extortion  
bureau file #9-2639

DATE: 6-1-45

b6  
b7C

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The file maintained in the Laboratory in this case has been disposed of and there is attached an envelope containing the material which was in the Laboratory File and which is not duplicated in the Investigative File. It is desired that the Records Section file this as an enclosure behind the file.

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

76 JUN 8 1945  
7/11

19-2639-68  
NOT RECORDED  
1 JUN 2 1945

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE  
*2PC-7*

9-2639-68

ITEM NO. 1

9-2639-68

ITEM NO. 2

1118-37

[Redacted]

9-2639-68

Please Call

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b7C

[Redacted]

AK 9:00 PM

8/0 30 AM tomorrow

Tuesday  
"Important"

[Redacted]



PHONE MICHIGAN 5841



9-2639-4

LOS ANGELES.

I gave him check for the  
Contract payment. He can  
discontinue and payment  
and leave the balance of  
he paid in delivery of future  
state consideration. He had  
\$1000 for first  
We are truly interested  
the subject.  
Suggest that you  
submit to regular practice. I  
should deliver letter and  
request promptness. Hoping  
to settle the matter this  
week. I am as always

9-2639-68

ITEM NO. 3

[redacted] 9-2639-68 40 sheets  
Please use the enclosed paper for carbon  
in place of your copies - sheets.

2 carbons as before, same margins as

on pages 3-6. you'll find "garmaned"  
words (it is not an error) please do  
not underscore these words or share it.

I sort of own the price.  
I can't hard it.

b6  
b7C



in all the world. I am 35  
and have done for me  
and have done for me in them  
all. I am not what I  
used to be with you men.  
Don't let me be killed. I'll  
be my own address. I'll  
make a big business in the  
future. My letters are all  
in the red. I am  
Dear, I am worried about  
those sentimental letters. I am  
see that they come to 5430 Glen  
Oak Court. I get them at the  
Office - I am afraid they may  
turn them out to him and  
he will catch them and get  
the money. Let me know about  
them. I'll be away from  
them. I'm tired of this  
it's all my life and I'm



Dr. A. M. Foote:

"A sum of ransom money will be placed in your hands by the following person or a representative of theirs, Selnick, Anna May Wong or Dr. McCoy. You will take good care of this money until we contact you and obtain it from you."

"Now you say nothing to any body in this hotel but you wait until you are cabled and you make arrangements to get this paid you in your room."

"Now as far there no news out and everything goes all right if you carry out your part. This is money for the son of David Selnick."

"Now how do we pick you well we know that one of the studio owners has picked you out to play the part of Jesus. You may notice if your not too modest that you are the direct counterfeit of Jesus."

Just look at yourself in the glass and visualize yourself in the beard and robes of Jesus. Well they are contemplating using you and since Mr. Plerson is to play a part and Dr. McCoy is too. That's why the gang picked you out and these people know you too."

The Gang.

b6  
b7C

The above was dictated to Dr. A. M. Foote and written by him at my request on July 14, 1937.

Special Agent.

2  
11  
Dr. A. M. Foote

Dr. A. M. Foote

Valdemar Hotel

606 So. Hope St. L.A.

Valdemar Hotel

Valdemar Hotel

aimed aimed aimed

Anna May Wong

Anna May Wong

Selznick Selznick Selznick

mentally mentally mentally

circumstances circumstances

japanese japanese japanese

hopelessness hopelessness hopelessness

sample sample sample sample

McPherson McPherson McPherson

John the Baptist Baptist Baptist

b6

b7C

#1. Special Agent  
SIO. 7/20/37

b6  
b7C

Los Angeles

Calif

Mar 24-1937.

Mrs David Selznick

Dear madam

Unless you, you in person  
Bring, \$20,000, in unmarked  
cash to me, Dr A.M. Foster  
in my room here, in the  
Tulmar Hotel 606 So. Hope St  
and this letter and envelope  
your son Myron will be  
hopelessly blinded and crippled  
for life, in addition to this  
your brother-in-law father  
and husband will be injured  
beyond the cruellest imagination  
at first that you may think a  
man in my profession insane  
or under the influence of narcotics  
D.A. Wilson



Handwritten notes in the top left corner, including "22" and some illegible scribbles.

b6  
b7C

to write a letter like this but  
do not be fooled for never in  
my life were I more cogni-  
of life and realities than I am  
at this moment and narcotics  
do not control me,  
you will recognize that you  
are not dealing with spineless  
individual who writes annoy-  
but instead one who is firmly  
purposed and is open with  
now you may think you can  
avoid paying me this sum  
by calling police officials  
and not to recognize the  
hopelessness of any police  
officials. Physically or mentally  
to cope with me, for I would  
know them and they would  
not know me, and I would  
not hesitate to destroy any.

Vertical handwritten note on the right margin: "I will be back"

copy 7/11 #3

number of them. This I would  
not to do. What I want to do get the  
money and still not be a  
fugitive and it is to your best  
interest that you aid me in  
this desire.

now why do I choose you?

I know you gamble and waste  
your money in, Betsharian  
heats that cry to the high heavens  
that you are put to bed drunk and  
will not miss the money but  
call me at Tr 6931 and let me  
know what you mean to do  
and everybody connected with  
you will be safe.

There is always an unlocked  
car at the university club and  
I know the length of time they  
are left there so I have at my  
disposal plenty not missed and  
I can strike quickly if I have

#4

the slightest inkling that you  
mean foul play with me.  
I have other means mentioned.  
Think clearly now what could you  
do at this moment if I were  
definitely committed to strike someone  
close to you, so I think you will  
agree the expedient thing is  
to quickly notify me by phone.  
Be sure its on Tr 6931 and not  
the Police or associates. Notify me  
of your intentions of come to my  
room quick with the money.  
Now you can get this money  
back again and make an  
immense sum additionally if  
you will come in accord  
with my plans.  
I have in mind a picture  
in which I will play the  
leading role the part of Jesus  
Christ and I will require an  
entire supporting cast. Annie May  
Wong the Chinese actress

Handwritten note on left margin: *Handwritten note*



7/11/37 #5

b6  
b7C

and a my simple mepherson and  
Harry McCoy who I have chosen to  
play the part of Aaron and again  
John the Baptist.

you see I look just like the ~~legendal~~  
conception of Jesus, I am his  
height and with Jewish features  
but I am not Jewish, all I need is  
the beard and robes and your  
brother-in-law myron can  
arrange to get the robes.  
so its not so terrible as at first  
you thought, and if you folks behave  
you will not be harmed.

I will not hold you folks in any  
way responsible for anything the  
others might do in hindering my  
plans.  
you would though lose the \$20.000  
this is a mere matter of guarantee  
that you will work for my interest  
now while I write in a friendly  
vein do not forget I have the  
instruments placed where I can  
obtain them and that I will

*Mepherson*

#6

betray everybody connected with  
you in a manner worse than  
death if you fail me.

Spotted not?  
7/20/52  
Hes.

awaiting you call

A.M. Foot m.O.

Valdmar Hotel.

606 So. Hope St. L.A.

A.M. Foot

A.M. Foot

A.M. Foot,

A.M. Foot,

A.M. Foot,

A.M. Foot,

A.M. Foot,

A.M. Foot,

A.M. Foot,

A.M. Foot,

A.M. Foot,

Spotted not?

#7

b6  
b7C

Counterpart:

Counterpart,

Visualize.

Visualize.

Metro-Goldwyn-mayer

Metro-Goldwyn-mayer

Burton Titts

Millionaires

Millionaires

My Dear army,

My Dear army

Patriotically american

Patriotically american

Ramification

Ramification

3.30 a.m.

In disguise

In disguise

Drastic

Drastic

Dr. foot 24  
Lapinog  
Lapinog

Lapinog

Lapinog

Lapinog

Lapinog

Lapinog

Lapinog

Lapinog

Lapinog

Lapinog



14/11/87 #8

b6  
b7C

Mrs David Selznick

Aray Temple McPherson

Dr A.M. Foot      Angeles Temple City.  
Valdimer Hotel 606  
So. Hope St  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Annie May Wong

Dear Annie

~~Ar~~

Ar. Mc Foot m. D.

A. m. Foot Valdimer Hotel

~~Ar~~

A-m Foot Dr Foot

A-m Foot Dr Foot

Dr A.M. Foot ~~Dr Foot~~

A-m Foot m D

Dr Harry McCoy

Dr Harry McCoy

*Aray Temple McPherson*

Received by  
J.F. 7/20/37 #9

b6  
b7C

Miss David Seng

G. A. Wilson

G. A. Wilson

Los Angeles, Calif.

March 24, 1937

Mrs. David Selverist

b6

b7C

Dear Madam:

Unless you, my person bring \$20,000 in  
unmarked cash to me Dr. A. M. Foote in my  
room here in the Waldman Hotel 606 So. 3rd St.  
and this letter and envelope your son Myron  
will be hopelessly blinded and crippled for  
life in addition to this your brother-in-law  
father and husband will be injured beyond  
the cruellest imagination.

At first thought you may think a man in my profession insane or under the influence of narcotics to write a letter like this. But do not be fooled for never in my life were I more cognizant of life and realities than I am at this moment and narcotics do not control me.

You will recognize that you are not dealing with a spineless individual who writes anonymously but instead one who is firmly perused and is open with his identity.

paying me this sum by calling in police



officials and not recognize the hopelessness of any police officials physically or mentally to cope with me for I would know them and they wouldn't know me and I would not hesitate to destroy any number of them. This I would not want to do.

What I want to do is get the money and still not be a fugitive and it is to your best interest that you aid me in this desire. Now why do I chose you? I know you gamble and waste your money in Belchazarian feasts that say to the high heavens that you are put to bed drunk and will not miss the money. Your best bet is to come right down with the money. But call me at Trinity 6981 and let me know what you mean to do and everybody connected with you will be safe.

There is always an unloaded car at the University Club and I know the length of time they are left there so I have at my disposal plenty of cars not missed and I can strike quickly if I have the slightest inkling that you mean to deal with me. I have <sup>my</sup> ~~my~~ name not mentioned.

Think clearly now what could you do if at this moment I were suddenly committed to

stake some one close to you so I think you will agree the expedient thing is to quickly notify me by phone be sure its Trinity 6931 and not the police or associates notify me of your intentions or come to my room quiet with the money.

now you can get this money back again and make an immense sum additional if you will come in accord with my plans.

I have in mind a picture in which I will play the leading role the part of Jesus Christ and I will require in the supporting cast Anna May Wong the Chinese actress and Aimee Sample McPherson and Dr. Harry McCall who I have chosen to play the part of Aaron and again John the Baptist.

You see I look just like the general conception of Jesus I am his height and with Jewish features but I am not Jewish all I need is the beard and robes and your brother in law Myron can <sup>arrange to</sup> get the robes.

So its not as terrible as at first you thought and if you folks behave you will not be harmed I will not hold you folks in any way responsible for anything the others might do in carrying out my plans. You would though lose the \$20,000.

This is a <sup>mere</sup> matter of guarantee that you will work for my picture.

4

now while I write in a kindly vein do not forget that I have the instruments placed where I can obtain them and that I will destroy everybody connected with you in a manner worse than death if you fail me.

Awaiting your call

A. M. Foote

Valdeman Hotel  
606 So. Hope St.

S. A.

All of the foregoing four pages are the hand-writing specimens only - having been dictated to me by Special Agents

[Redacted]

S. B. I. U. S. Dept. of

Justice - 4-127

A. M. Foote

b6  
b7C



SPECIMEN OF HANDWRITING OF A. M. FOOTE

Jack Rabbit Mine  
1/2 mile east of Gro Grande Calif.  
2 miles N. of Gro Grande  
Turn off road to the right past  
house on small ranch - tractor -  
pneumatics - from Victorville

On mine is old auto - then go  
around Mt. - to shaft or tunnel  
100' with tracks - on top of Mt. to  
shaft sunk to meet tunnel -  
about 50 or 60' shaft - tunnel to  
do 50 or 60' to meet shaft  
low at 1250' or - to 7500'  
for milling - 5 blains -

Tilted sand & clay  
2000 CASH -

Can take out ore from shaft  
contract with to get out ore  
mine & hauling to mill - not  
over 700 per ton -

450 treatment charges  
5 ton truck (100 ton to mine)  
Contract to mine & haul to mill  
contract for 100 ton - offer bonus for  
2000 ore or better -  
14" on hanging wall 1/2" 14" on  
14" " fact " 2 14" on  
stronger  
besides  
min 200 on  
three Mt.

Elevation: about 3800' or 4000'

From Mine S. 4 - 3 hours

123 miles to Victorville

6 " " Oro Grande

2 " " past " " \*

5 1/2 " " turn of road to new

Springs make 50' of water

all the time

worth the price of mine lease

just for irrigation purposes alone

Free milling gold ore -

(Farley mine) Jack Rabbit

b6  
b7C



"What little touch of the unexpected would make this appeal still more to the imagination."

"If your new idea promises escape from some common problem, do not overlook this attraction in your selling."

Some of escape from the commonplace has its place in psychology.

"You need to create desire — not by words, but by sense images"

How can I strengthen the attraction of my new idea by hitching it directly to one or more of the five senses?

"Double interest" while you wait for your principal to double.

a.m.f. slogan Sept. 1934

~~Double~~ "new safety profits" with double interest and principal also.

Rule #1 - To protect my investors  
Reasonable profits L.T.D.

Rule 1 - whenever after careful  
investigation I have determined  
a certain <sup>minority</sup> interest in a going concern  
is worth purchasing because I am  
satisfied the man is "honest & capable"  
minority per cent interest. In all such  
cases - Money back first from 60%  
of net profits - then the % interest  
fully paid up & non assessable -

In joint control for controlling,  
or at least a 50-50 basis - then I  
am willing to allow the entire in-  
vestments to stay in the business.  
It must be unusually good if I do  
not deem control necessary to  
protect my investing public.  
Almost always I buy only on a  
purchase of the entire business.

Dr. A. M. Foote

A sum of ransom money will be placed in your hands by the following persons, or a representative of theirs., Selgnicks, Anna May Wong or Dr. Mc Day.

You will take good care of this money until we contact you and obtain it from you.

Now you say nothing to anybody in this hotel, but you wait until you are called and you make arrangements to get this paid you in your room.

---

Unless you come down to my room immediately with 20,000, you will be disfigured and your father will be crippled, and others etc. to you will be injured. First call my number Privity 6931 and ask for me, Dr. A. M. Foote, the address is Waldemar Hotel 1206 So. Hope St.

As above dictated by Mr. Carstensens - March 23-37  
John A. McConnell Specimen only



2.

You may think a doctor writing such  
letter is crazy, or under the influence  
of narcotics, but I have narcotics in  
full control and have the courage to  
sign my name -

You do not need to lose the \$20,000  
and is a mere guarantee of co-operation to  
the fullest extent on your part.

A. M. Foote 606 So. Hope St. L. A.

A. M. Foote 606 So. Hope St. L. A.

A. M. Foote 606 So. Hope St. L. A.

Dictated by

[Redacted]

March 23-1937

b6  
b7C

Los Angeles, Calif  
March 27-1937

Dr. A. M. Foote

Dr. A. M. Foote

Dr. A. M. Foote

Dr. A. M. Foote

606 So. Hope St. S.A.

606 So. Hope St. P.A.

606 So. Hope St. L.A.

Trinity 6931.

Trinity 6931.

Trinity 6931.

Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer

Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer

Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 to to to to to

Be sure you call the right number  
and don't try to call the police.

Dr. A. M. Foote

March 28<sup>th</sup> 1937

Jack Rabbitt, Maine

1 - All assessments done and recorded for 1937<sup>(2)</sup>

2. Could you take \$500<sup>00</sup> (after 30 days for  
examination and acceptance) - and the balance  
\$500 every 60 days - until \$2000 is fully paid up?

Total of \$2000 paid in 6 months after acceptance.

3 - I will set aside (50%) of all Smelter receipts  
to your bank to apply on purchase price of \$2000<sup>3</sup>



This is the time for all good men to come  
to the aid of their country.

[REDACTED]  
Mrs. Diana Setznick,  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Dear Madam:

Unless you in person bring  
\$10,000 in marked cash to me at a  
table in my room here at the Waldemar  
Hotel, 606 So. Hope St. and this letter  
and envelope your son Myron will be  
helplessly blinded and crippled for life  
in addition to this your brother-in-law,  
father and husband will be injured  
beyond the cruellest imagination.

Belshazarian  
University Club  
excellent  
Trinity

Dr. Harry Mc Coy  
John the Baptist  
A. M. State, M. D.

Jesus Christ  
Anna May Wong  
Chinese

Amie Temple McPherson

McPherson  
3/24/37

b6  
b7C

Specimen only, dictated by [REDACTED]  
agent. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Special

Dear Mr Foote:-

A sum of ransom money will be placed in your hands  
by the following persons -

Selznick, Anna May Hong - Mr McCoy.

Now you say nothing to any body.

A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

M. B. M.  
3/74/27

Specimen of handwriting of R. H. Sayres, Waldman  
Hotel, Los Angeles, Calif.

I am certainly surprised to receive  
that letter & am not worried  
about it

J. Schnick

Mrs David Schnick

b6  
b7C

Dear madam unless you in person  
bring 20000 dollars in marked cash  
to me Dr a m Foote in my room  
here at the Waldemar hotel  
606 I hope it in this letter and  
envelop your son Myron will be  
hopeless blind and crippled for life  
in addition to this your Brother in law  
father and husband will be in for  
beard the cruelest emigration  
university club expedient  
Trinity Jesus Christ and may wong  
chines amie simple McPetersen  
Dr Henry McCoy John the Baptist  
a m Foote m d

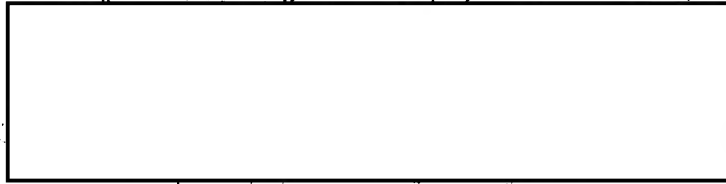
Specimen only dictated By  
[redacted] Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

b6  
b7C

mbm  
3/1/57



This is the time for all good men to  
come to the aid of the party.

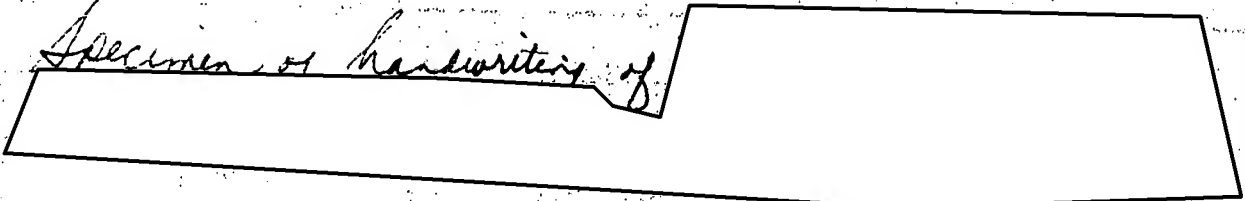


mbm

2/24/37

b6  
b7C

Specimen of handwriting of



Adam, and Adam was the spiritual  
man, and on this makes us all  
only an Adam.

And if it was not for the  
storm in the seed, on this whole Earth  
no <sup>living thing</sup> life we could breed.

Therefore I say please try and  
go with the seed our Grain we feed.

For science thus now understand  
that our nervous system is controlled  
by the animal mind.

Therefore Jesus teaches the  
Parable of the Sower for in seed there  
is the Power.

In this World there was never  
one great man, who was half woman  
and half man.

Therefore it wise not to over-

9-2639 K2

for Life is eternal and sometimes  
the Price we must pay, because  
there is no getting away  
Faith.

Many times I walked to Hollywood  
from Los Angeles, and I enjoy it  
because our beautiful city is the  
city of the angels, the holy spirits.  
have guided me, and I heard a Voice  
that said fear no evil because I'll  
be with thee.

And so I remembered this beauti-  
ful song as I walked along.

I have found a joy <sup>in</sup> living  
this dear World is much to me, all its  
Pleasures are augmented, mine ascending  
Along, Tho my Friends despise for -

9-2639 K2



on a faithful Friend, he said he  
is Two Buck but never ask me  
again.

Well <sup>if</sup> I had never dreamed that some  
day I must go begging, and all this had  
to come about, but I am faithful  
and I shall all repay it, for there is  
that I am that Man call God.

Despite all the Persecutions that  
I had to stand for I was even thrown  
in Jail, I get the voice of loved  
ones called me, fear no evil burden  
I'll be with thee just be faithful  
and thou canst not fail.

And so they knew that I was  
down and out and penniless I was  
and out, it may be the cause of my  
oppression, because I have not the

95639 82

Knock on your door, it don't have to  
be him in Person, but whatson ye have  
done to any of my Brothers ye have done  
to me therefore.

And in the midst of my struggle a great  
Piece of Philosophy, I found out, this was  
written by a young Writer when he  
was down and out, but now he feels  
much better, since he uses the science

Mind over Matter. <sup>please</sup>  
and after a little while I ask him <sup>me that it was alright with him</sup> to let me use  
this Poem, and so he told as long as you  
tell Morgan got it from.

To those who knock those who knock  
on their doors.

It's bad enough to down a Man,  
by refusing him help when he is out  
but to knock him more far worse than,

But when I was on my way to Fresno,  
I have found a Man with a Human  
Heart, <sup>while I was walking in sackcloth on desert. Bld.</sup> and who has send him unto  
me <sup>Pennglan</sup> when I was to be Risco, no one  
else but our Father God. (The Son)

I walked for hours my Feet  
were swollen and finally I broke into  
Tears, but I was faithful, and I saw  
a car by me within 75 miles or less  
but and all of a sudden he stopped  
<sup>it</sup> his gear.

~~He~~ This man ask me young  
Man where to, and as I said to him  
Fresno.

Strange it seems and believe it or  
not, a year ago, he said I was  
picked up by some one on this same  
spot. He said last year I came from

*and faithful*

not forget a poor ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup>.

I looked for a job there for  
then ten days, I could have received  
many, but my clothes were a long  
ways.

And so a Voice to Hollywood called  
me back, on the way home I had  
the Mage to lay myself on a Rail-  
road Track.

~~And~~ But the Devil could not  
get the best of me, because Mind  
over Matter is a great Piece of Philosophy.  
Cold and Hunger I stood before, I  
shall live through this time I am  
a servant of God therefore.

For it is written that we are  
one with him, and so I am not  
afraid to go <sup>for him</sup> through thick and thin.

9-2639 T2



to that I may be able to seek an answer.  
Remember that there is at once  
a thing as such, then from nothing  
comes nothing and in this life it  
is all Merit.

And on the account of all  
this then, I had to leave my happy  
my friends and also chief servants,  
for if it was not for him I would  
not have eaten sometimes ago.

I hope that they will all  
understand that I am willing to pay  
my debts and make up and make  
good. or this is the final end I want to  
get away, for my never will break  
most any day.

If you want to hang me on the  
cross, alright I am ready but some one will  
carry the Tom. I could write like this from  
now until some day, but that you

9-2639 82

In all my life I was a happy young man, but it seems that I am troubled because I have studied the Books of the Unknown Man.

Why should I be persecuted because I have written the Book of God in Electricity, if it was not for the Electricity I could not have written this Piece of Philosophy.

And I thought I knew something and now I don't know nothing.

Why the ought to feel ashamed of them help out there, to keep me doing like a Martyr.

When our intelligent men in this World ~~the~~ has in fact divine crazy, before his Works are recognized. So I close it up to you and write my Telephone number in this 7908. 9-2639 K2  
Best Wishes and Regards to all  
Thankfully

b6  
b7C

SPECIMEN OF HANDWRITING OF

b6  
b7C



On a M.S. note:

A sum of reasonable money will be placed in your hands by the following persons or representatives of them, Seligman's firm May 11 or 12 1917. You will take good care of this money until we contact you and obtain it from you.

Now you say nothing to any body in this hotel but you wait until you are called and you make arrangements to get this paid you in your room.

Now so far there is news out and everything goes all right if you carry out your part. There is money for Hanson of David Seligman.

Now how do we pick you well we know that one of the studio scouts has picked you out to play the part of Jesus you may notice if you wish to modest that you are the dark counterpart of Jesus. Just look at yourself in the glass and visualize yourself in the bear and robes of Jesus. Well they are contemplating using you and Anne McPherson is to play a part and Or McCoy is too. That's why the gang is so interested in these people.



ll  
truck  
bill  
17  
mat  
man  
of

they  
of  
5



I know you have the money and I will  
immediately set to strike if you try to touch  
the police are a match for me physically  
or mentally and while I have a kindly  
disposition this very kindness in my ultimate  
purpose will cause me to exact all human  
possibilities in plans much beyond what I  
have ever hinted

I can carry cars in the garage of the  
millionaires club and no one even knows they  
have been used I can strike quick like I did the  
Owner told when he took a car in from one of  
the owners. Had I desired to kill him I could  
have done so. I did not.

Assure me by phone immediately and I will  
set you out to strike

A. H. T. 11/1

606 So. 11th St.

March 6/31



Los Angeles 11-11-34

Dear Sam

Perhaps you came down to my room immediately with \$20,000 you will be helping me and your father will be grateful and others close to me will be injured. Just call my number, Sreaty 6-951 and ask for me for 4 M's only. The address is Valthman Hotel, 606 S. Hope St.

You may think a doctor writing such a letter is crazy or wrong. The influence of narcotics but I have narcotics in full control and I have the courage to sign my name. You do not need to have the doctor's name as a guarantee of information to the police but on your part.

I going to induce Martin Goldwyn Meyer to have us in the same picture when this comes out the money will be returned. Quince Sam Phillips McPherson and Dr. M. Long will be in the picture.

Be sure you call the right number now and don't try to call the police as you will only cause a terrible toll in lives.

I do not intend to be a fugitive and if you folks are sensible you will be safe. I will not hold you responsible for what others do. I will discuss the matter with you.

100-2637-68

b6  
b7C

Dr. David Schmitt



Dear Madam,

You may think a doctor writing such a letter is crazy, or under the influence of narcotics, but I have narcotics in full control and I have the courage to sign my name.

You do not need to lose the \$20000 it is a mere guarantee of cooperation to the fullest extent upon your part.

I am going to induce Michael Goldwyn to have us in the same picture, when this is carried out, the money will be returned.

Amos Scaple McPherson and W. McLean will be in the picture. I will play the part of James as I look just like him.

I do not intend to be a fugitive and if you folks are sensible, you will be safe. I will not hold you responsible for what others do. I will destroy people connected with you, if you are to blame.

M.P. M.  
3/25/37



I know you have the money, and I will immediately set to strike if you try any tricks. No police are a match for me physically or mentally, and while I have a kindly disposition, my very kindness in my ultimate purpose will cause me to exact all human wickedness on plans much beyond what I have even hinted.

Belshegarian Anna May Wong  
A. B C D E. F G H I J K L M N  
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Specimen only  
dictated by

b6  
b7C

Special Agent Federal  
Bureau of Investigation

3/25/37.

M. B. M.  
3/25/37.



Dr A M J. [unclear]  
Valderrama



9-2637-68



BUY U.S. SAVINGS  
BONDS  
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

Mr. [illegible]  
[illegible]  
[illegible]

822

10



Q-2639-68  
Enclosure Retained